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## LITERATURE

*Memoirs of William Beckford, of Fonthill.*  
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ONLY the other day we rambled, on a sunny autumn afternoon, through the domain of that Wiltshire Sardanapalus whose name heads the book we review. It is now a tangled mass of overgrown woods, bound and clamped with brambles. The nine miles of drive, along which his four grey ponies used to pad and trot, are now chopped into three estates. The great Abbey, that country people tell you cost a million, rose like an exhalation and passed away like a summer cloud. One turret gallery alone stands as a place for pic-nics, and the roads are rutted deep with waggons carrying stones to the Marquis of Westminster's new mansion, ugly and cumbersome, building far below the old airy height of the Aladdin's palace. The agate cups, gold lamps, proof engravings, Hondekoeters, Weeninxes, and all such rarities are scattered to the four winds, just like his old rival Horace Walpole's; and now the bleak wind whistling from the broad crop-eared Wiltshire downs keeps rumbling and muttering in every blast, "Vanity of vanities: all is vanity and vexation of spirit."

The memory of Beckford, the author of 'Vathek,' had better have been left alone. It is darkened with the shadow of crimes, that will not bear even examination. Let these charges be true or untrue, the world has pretty well come to a fair appreciation of his claims for fame. He was an eccentric, proud voluptuary,—the author of a wild Arabian story, only half his own;—a man with refined but perverted tastes, who, shut out by the world, and surrounded by his books, pictures, vases, and flowers, tried to persuade himself that he was not in a solitary prison, but free, and that the world was, in fact, the prison into which he disdained to enter. His name still lives in Wiltshire as a name certainly not of dread, but of wonder, as the builder of the Great Tower, as the lord of nine miles of terrace drive, as a solitary, severe man, who lived for himself, yet was kind, generous and a great employer of the poor. He was a Dives, whose vices seem scarcely to have been talked of or known in the neighbourhood in which he dwelt.

But to the book. A more complete model of a *parvenu* never existed than this mysterious sensualist, Beckford of Fonthill. He was not one of those sturdy honest Englishmen who boast that they would rather be first of a famous race than the last of a disgraceful stock. His library was a perfect nursery of genealogical trees—cranes' feet, as the French heralds call them—where, from a central hypothesis, a dozen lies branch and fructify, to prove that the owner really remembers the name of his great-grandfather. By the aid of heralds, who live by ingenious conjectures which gratify the vanity of new men, Beckford traced his family to a certain Beckford village, near Tewkesbury. A Sir William Beckford fought for Richard at Bosworth, and from that time the heralds lose sight of the name,—quite overlooking a well-known Maidenhead tailor and a sloop-selling train-band Captain of Charles the Second's time that Pepys mentions not very creditably,—and not regaining their intermittent and dishonest sight till, in 1702, a certain Peter Beckford crops up, as Lieut.-Governor of Jamaica in the wild buccaneering times. He had something of the strong passions of his descendant, and, indeed, died in a boiling fit of

rage at some disobedience of his commands. From the Hamilton family, by his mother's side, may equally be traced Beckford's voluptuousness and fine taste. It can scarcely be believed that the descendant of the Maidenhead tailor, private soldier, and Jamaica slave-dealer, was the proudest of men, perpetually daring to assert that he was descended from John of Gaunt (no great triumph even if he proved it), on the mere foundation of his father, the Lord Mayor, having purchased some property that had once been John of Gaunt's. The windows at Fonthill burned and glowed with heraldic lies, mere sham claims and suppositions founded on strained and twisted resemblances of names that proved nothing. He spoke with admiration of a certain Mr. Smith because his ancestor was the pioneer who married the Indian Princess Pocahontas in Virginia. He curled his lip at modern mushrooms. He declared that since the cessation of Heraldic Visitations grants of arms were of no moment. He even dragged the Latimers into his roll, and, to prove his descent, collected portraits of the martyr-bishop, and learned long passages from his quaint, homely sermons. In these follies an historian whom he kept encouraged him. Beckford's father, the Lord Mayor, was chiefly remarkable for his enormous riches and his consistent opposition to the narrow Hanoverian interests and the consequent German War. He was tedious in the House, and when not tedious was ludicrous. As for his resistance to the Bute party, and his celebrated Protest, it is still uncertain whether Horne Tooke did not write it; and it is even more doubtful, in spite of the factious Guildhall monument, whether the daring *millionnaire* ever uttered it. Although himself in some things abstemious to a miserly pitch, the Lord Mayor used to give City dinners which cost sometimes as much as 10,000*l.* each. He seems to have been a domineering impetuous man, licentious and eccentric almost to the pitch of insanity. Perhaps it was Chatterton who in his elegy spoke of

His soul untainted with the golden bait,  
—little thinking how small a merit it is in a *millionnaire* to resist place and pension.

The young heir, born 1789, with the first fortune in England, and ten years to nurse it in, was spoiled by his widowed mother. His tutor, recommended by the celebrated Lord Littleton, and aided by the dead father's greatest friend, the Earl of Chatham, did little to correct his pupil's pride, irritability, and desultory cleverness. His mother's friends, Lords Camden, Thurlow, and Bathurst, Hermes Harris, and Gay's old patroness, the Duchess of Queensberry, petted and caressed him. Lord Chatham, the great gentleman even on his coronetted crutches, moved about among his workmen like a Roman consul, smiling at the handsome, wilful son of his old City supporter. The tall, thin, gouty, eagle-nosed, old peer was at this time talking history that his son William, then fourteen, might profit by it, or praising Lady Hester for her progress in Greek. He used to warn Beckford in rounded periods of the danger of encouraging a fondness for Oriental reading, which would draw him away, he said, from the chaster models of Greece and Rome. From the following anecdote it would seem that the great Earl preferred the paste to the real jewel, and that he did not fully understand his son's genius:—

"One day it was proposed that young Beckford should repeat a speech of considerable length before the earl, which he had translated from Thucydides, some time before, and rehearsed at Fonthill. He exhibited no want of confidence, had it perfectly by heart, and was by no means wanting in a proper

emphasis and action. The whole of Lord Chatham's family were present, and the young speaker was heard with the greatest attention. When he had concluded, Lord Chatham rose from his seat, flung aside his crutch, and embracing the youth, evidently much delighted, exclaimed, turning to his son William, 'May you, my son, some day, make as brilliant a speaker.'"

At this time Beckford was a visitor at Amesbury, only twelve miles of pleasant downs off, and close to the Stonehenge circle, and the mansion where the old Duchess of Queensberry sat enthroned like a Sibyl in her eccentric beehive chair. The young genius was too volatile for the old Duchess:—

"She was then at the age of fourscore, with a superior understanding and perfect knowledge of the *bien-séances* of rank. Having frequently failed at breakfast-time, from the want of doing something which he thought rather rigorous on the part of the Duchess, she desired him to ring the bell, and when the servant entered the room, bade him bring to her the great family Bible. This she opened at the Book of Wisdom, and a passage applicable to the occasion, desiring young Beckford to read it aloud. When he had done, her Grace said, 'There it was, young man, that I learned my manners.'"

Beckford's first literary work was a frivolous parody of Descamp's amusing 'Lives of the Flemish Painters.' In this, under buffoon names, such as Og of Basan and Watersouchy of Amsterdam, the young wit compiled a guide-book for his father's picture-gallery to confuse the old housekeeper and astonish rustic visitors. The following extract shows the degree of humour which the young writer showed, and the sensuous colour he was one of the first to introduce into modern writing, till Keats came and doubled the power of words. Hemmelinck tries to persuade the artist, Aldrovandus Magnus, out of his love for Anne Spindleman:

"He accompanied his disciple (the artist in love), tried by sage discourse to set his conduct in its proper light, and told him, with his accustomed gravity, that what was right could not be wrong, and vice versa. He added, that youth was the season of folly, and that passion was like an unbridled horse, a torrent without a dyke, or a candle with a thief in it, and ended by comparing Ann Spindleman herself to a vinegar bottle, who would deluge the salad of matrimony with much more vinegar than oil."

Under the name of Watersouchy of Amsterdam the young satirist ridicules Dutch painting:—"In a picture of the Burgomaster Van Gulph he exhausted minuteness. He baffled Mieris, numbering even the hairs in his sister's eyelashes; and the carbuncle at the end of his nose, which had baffled Mieris, he rendered in full splendour. He resided with its owner while thus employed, and the admiration he received made Watersouchy mentally exclaim—'You are worthy to possess me!' He painted his new patron's wife, not in still life, but busy watering a capcium. Her ruffle, though admirable, was nothing to her hands and arms. Gerard Dow had bestowed five days' work on those parts of the lady's person. Watersouchy spent a month in giving the fingers only the touches of perfection. Each finger had its ring so tinted as at first sight almost to deceive a clever jeweller. This was the artist's last great work. His health failed, but he bore up, and became cheerful at times in the company of a few old ladies. He took cordials, became fond of news about tulips, and painted little pieces for his early comforters, such as a dormouse, or a cheese with mites. His old patrons saw his genius was extinguishing, and his difficulty of breathing increasing. Mr. Beckford concluded the life of Watersouchy, and his own volume, in the following words:—'I have been troubled with an asthma for some time,' said the artist (Watersouchy), in a faint voice.—'So I perceive,' said M. Baise-la-main."

We have not a doubt that in this juvenile



satire the young, half-educated smatterer of genius was helped by friends and tutors, for there is no touch of the novice in any page.

At eighteen this spoiled child of fortune was sent to Geneva, his mother having some quarrel with the English Universities. There Beckford nibbled at the sciences, "a mouthful of each and a bellyful of none,"—met Saussure and Bonnet, and was a visitor at the house of Huber, the King of the Bees. Of this tour, aided by more tutors no doubt, he wrote 'Dreams and Waking Thoughts,'—the whole edition of which he suppressed by the advice of friends, who thought his opinions on the cruelty of fox-hunting would affect his chances of parliamentary success. Before returning home he visited Voltaire at Ferney, and found a gallows and chapel on his estate. Voltaire was then a dark, thin, shrivelled, doubled-up, old man, with keen, penetrating eyes and finished address.

Returning home in 1778, just as Plymouth was dreading bombardment, the young *dilettante* rambles about England, forgetting the Maidenhead tailor, and sneering at modern castles; in 1780 he goes abroad with his tutor for the ten months' grand tour, stealing every odd moment for snatches of voluptuous sham Eastern books. He laughs at green canals, oyster-eyed Dutchmen, and languidly approves of the Rhine. The life at Ems he thought quite Indian, and the plains of the Danube he compared to the flowery savannahs. Even at this time a desire for voluptuous undisturbed retirement appears. At Venice he grew sentimental, and the sbirri in the Piazza thought the rich young Englishman mad as he strutted about, tossing up his arms to the phlegmatic and immovable statues. At Pisa he compares the Duomo to a mosque, his mind being seething with 'Vathek' dreams of a despotism of riches and pleasure. That he really could observe and describe, and was even then before his age in word-painting and the power of reproducing nature, this sketch of the Alban Hills will show:—

"Dreary flats thinly scattered over with ilex, and barren hillocks crowned with solitary towers, were the only objects we perceived for several miles. Now and then we passed a few black, ill-favoured sheep, straggling by the wayside, near a ruined sepulchre, just such animals as an ancient would have sacrificed to the manes. Sometimes we crossed a brook, whose ripples were the only sounds that broke the general stillness, and observed the shepherd's huts on its banks, propped up with broken pedestals, and marble friezes. I entered one of them, whose owner was observed tending his herds, and began writing upon the sand, and murmuring a melancholy song. Perhaps, the dead listened to me from their narrow cells. The living I can answer for; they were far enough removed. You will not be surprised at the dark tone of my musings in so sad a scene, especially as the weather lowered; and you are well acquainted how greatly I depend upon skies and sunshine. To-day I had no blue firmament to revive my spirits; no genial gales, no aromatic plants to irritate my nerves, and lend at least a momentary animation. Heath and a greyish kind of moss are the sole vegetation which covers this endless wilderness. Every slope is strewn with the relics of a happier period; trunks of trees, shattered columns, cedar beams, helmets of bronze, skulls, and coins, are frequently dug up together."

The only now memorable events of this tour were Beckford's final abandonment of a public life,—and his introduction to Sir William Hamilton, who had not yet met with the syren housemaid who beguiled Nelson. In these early tours Beckford's view of things seems to have been as brilliant and hollow as could have been expected from the mere artistic mind of a rich man.

After a grand coming-of-age festival at Fonthill, the possessor of a million of money and a hundred thousand a year went abroad again in search of pleasure, with a physician, a musician, and Cozens the artist, three carriages, led horses and outriders, seeking for "wild spots," yet plunging into every festivity.

The composition of 'Vathek' the anonymous author assigns to 1782,—the year before Beckford married and went abroad for several years to Switzerland. To prove this date the author brings forward 'Al Raoui,' an Arabic story, translated at this time, but not printed till 1799. Some feeble verses are also of the same period. As for 'Vathek,' written as the author asserted at one sitting, in French, in three days and two nights, it was after all a make up from 'Abdallah; ou, les Aventures du Fils de Hanif,' Paris, 1723, a jumble of Hindû and Arabian mythology, written in the bad taste of the hybrid Orientalism of Louis the Fourteenth's reign. From this book he drew all his machinery. The hall of Eblis was old Fonthill Hall, and the characters were chiefly the Wiltshire servants idealized. The first translation into English was by an anonymous hand. The story is wild and ingenious, but sensual, and wanting in the open-air freshness and purity of the Arabian Nights. Vathek is so superlatively and atheistically bad that we lose all sympathy in him. There is a want of all human nature and human interest, and we close the book with the feeling that we have been reading a mad fancy, hideously and impurely distorted by a rich voluptuary who seems to revel in dreams of gigantic and dominating vice.

In 1786, Beckford's wife, a daughter of the Earl of Aboyne, died at Vevay, and from this time the Orientalist never did well with the world. He moved at first restlessly about Switzerland, and then going down to Wiltshire for six months' sorrowful contemplation started for Portugal with a retinue of thirty persons. There is a mistaken impression, which Byron in 'Childe Harold,' and travellers as careless as the poet without his excuses, have tended to keep up, that Beckford built "a bower of bliss" at Cintra. At Montserrat he lived a year as truant in a mere barbarous gothic sham house, built by a Falmouth carpenter.

Of this Portuguese tour, which did the morals of the widower no good, we need say nothing. His vivid 'Batalha and Alcobaca' is too well known to need notice. We all remember the motley array of intriguing epicurean priests, wanton Court ladies, bigots, pimps, and fools, with whom he there mingled, reckless of the dreadful earthquake that had just closed its jaws, of the expelled Jesuits, and the terrible Pombal.

In 1796 Beckford returned to reside altogether in retirement in Wiltshire, with a train of artists, musicians, and topographers, to encourage him in every despotic whim, eccentricity and vice. How this desire for solitude came upon him the biographer does not say; but it first evidenced itself in a tyrannical determination to build a ring wall of nine miles round his property to keep out his sworn enemies, the trespassing fox-hunters. As soon as this was done he began to take fancies about the damp of the Abbey, and began a new mansion of stupendous magnificence,—dreaming, probably, of Solomon and the deeds of Pre-Adamite builders, for there was always a love of the unusual and supernatural in this pursuer of pleasure. The visit of Lord Nelson and Sir William Hamilton, in 1800, was the occasion of a *fiête*, that lit up the old doomed Abbey till it blazed through Wiltshire like a fiery beacon. Peter Pindar and West were among the guests,

and Lady Hamilton's theatrical performances were among the day's amusements. They are thus described by an eye-witness:—

"In the library, after the old custom, a species of confectionery was presented in gold-wired baskets, with wine and spices—a measure adopted, perhaps, to gain time as well, while chairs were arranged in the yellow damask room to receive the company. A clear space was left in front of the seats. When the company had returned to that room and taken seats, Lady Hamilton entered, attired in the character of Agrippina, carrying in a golden urn the ashes of Germanicus, in order to excite the Roman people to avenge the death of her husband, who had fallen a victim to the envy of Tiberius, poisoned, as it was supposed, by that Emperor's order, while leading an army in the East. The actress showed on this occasion the benefit of the assiduous care Sir William Hamilton had taken to instruct her in the Roman history and manners. She displayed, with great fidelity, the attitudes of a Roman lady: the grief she was supposed to feel, and that nobility of feature directed to express sorrow, which belongs only to good acting; and here she was, as she had been through life, an adept. She threw into her character everything in passion, or solicitation, which could move the Roman people to uphold her cause, and that of their favourite leader. Classical gracefulness in the movements of her head and hands, and in her mode of holding the urn, and shifting the position of her arms, now in presenting it before the Roman people, then in elevating it to the gods in the act of supplication, attracted great praise. She altered her head-dress to suit the different changes of situation in which she presented herself in succession, with so much ease and adroitness, without retiring or turning aside a moment from the spectators, that she merited the praise of extreme cleverness. In the last scene of her pantomime—for pantomime it was—she took a young lady from the company to personate her daughter. Here, too, her action was so correct and natural, that she drew tears from some of the company. It is questionable whether any scene, without theatrical assistance from other characters, could be represented with greater effect."

—It was during this visit that the intrepid Nelson is said to have shown such nervousness at being driven in a phaeton.

It was at this time, just as the old Abbey was being pulled down, and the new tower was rising 200 feet high to greet the distant Lansdown that the clay feet of this golden image began to totter. It was when Herod sat throned in his greatness that the worms began to devour him. A decree of the Court of Chancery came down on Beckford's rent-roll like a sword-blade, and cut off 12,000*l.* a year. Another lawsuit cost him 40,000*l.* to settle; and, in addition, he was robbed by agents and irresponsible stewards, who cheated him safely out of reach. The new Abbey cost him 273,000*l.*, the tower twice falling, and several parts requiring rebuilding, owing to the ignorance and blundering of the architect. The eastern part of the Abbey he never revisited. Like his own life, it was a splendid unfinished project,—a good intention never carried out. Its gorgeousness is thus described by a contemporary:—

"What would you think, for instance of a room, in which might nearly be placed the monument at London Bridge; yet this, with the exception of a very few feet, is really possible in the saloon here, and although at this spot the interior of Fonthill Tower has not the vastness of York Minster, yet I think the whole building stands on more ground. The dazzling effect of the stained glass in the lofty windows, when the sun throws their colours on the crimson carpets, contrasted with the vivid green lawn which you see at the same glance, in the distance, through the lofty entrance doors, themselves as high as a moderate-sized house; the galleries, one hundred feet above you, leading to the nurseries, the magnificent mirror at the end of the room, opposite the entrance door, reflecting the

prospect of the grounds for miles, altogether presented a scene I shall not soon see equalled."

Weary of his toy, yet too proud to retrench and cease building, Beckford determined to sell the whole and go and live in retirement at Bath. 10,000 copies of his Catalogue were sold. Some of his pictures, including Bellini's 'Doge Loredano,' were bought by the nation, and are now in the National Gallery. On his deathbed, the master of the works at Fonthill disclosed to Beckford the fact that the foundations of the tower had been shirked, and that there was danger of a fall:—

"He thought it his duty to make Mr. Farquhar acquainted with the incident; the latter received the news with the utmost coolness, observing, he was quite satisfied it would last his time. Shortly after, the tower did fall over into the marble court so gently, that Mr. Farquhar, in another part of the building, was not aware of the accident. From that time the existing owner and Mr. Beckford became intimate, and Mr. Farquhar was so partial to him, that, had he lived a few months longer, there was little doubt he would have bequeathed Fonthill to its former owner, for he frequently observed he had a great inclination to do so. On the former being asked if he should not have liked the legacy, he replied, 'Good heavens, yes, I should have been in an ecstasy at it, for it would have falsified the old proverb, 'You can't eat your cake and have it too.'"

Beckford, who at Fonthill had left tea-cups about full of diamonds, had now to retrench, but only as a man who gives up port to take to sherry. His new Lansdown House, with its junction archway, became a treasure-house of rare pictures, old engravings, and old china. Again he built a tower, from whence, one morning, looking towards Fonthill, he rubbed his eyes, like Aladdin, finding the old Wiltshire tower had disappeared. His life now was that of an imperial, selfish, methodical voluptuary:—

"The life this singular-gifted man led at Bath was as retired as that at Fonthill. He brought there the same habits, but they were upon a diminished scale. The inhabitants of the city in which he resided knew as little about him as those of the metropolis. He was seen occasionally on horseback, with the late Duke of Hamilton, passing through the streets, but not more than half-a-dozen persons, literary men and artists, were admitted to his acquaintance. His old porter at Fonthill, Pero, a dwarf, continued to be his porter at Bath. Old servants were still in his service, and strongly attached to him, as both his tenantry and domestics had been at Fonthill. Vincent, his gardener, between seventy and eighty years of age, had planted Fonthill in the newer part. Accompanied by one, and sometimes two servants, he rode on horseback every day before dinner, not very regardless of the aspect of the weather."

The dwarf and his mysterious master were the Bluebeard wonders of Bath. On the 2nd of May, 1844, he died calmly of a cold caught out riding. The great sarcophagus of red granite that held his body was inscribed with the not very appropriate lines from 'Vathek': "Enjoying humbly the most precious gift of heavenly hope,"—but who expects truth from an epitaph? Of his personal appearance our anonymous author says:—

"In person, he was not much above the middle height, well formed, and rather slender than full, with features indicating intellectual power, and small grey eyes of wonderful acuteness. His dress was almost uniformly a green coat with cloth buttons, a buff waistcoat, striped breeches of the same colour as the coat, and brown topped boots, the fine cotton stocking appearing over them, much in the fashion of a gentleman forty years before. His apprehension was quick, and his enunciation rapid. His voice was agreeable, his gesture energetic, especially when excited in conversation. When silent or examining anything, he placed his freckled fingers over his mouth. His bodily activity was that of a man of sixty when he was above

eighty; his face alone bore marks of age. He seldom sat down even when conversing, especially if particularly earnest. His manner was courteous and gentlemanly, while the impression produced on the mind of the stranger was decidedly that he was one out of the common run of individuals in the more refined ranks of life."

To judge by the early Reynolds portrait, Mr. Beckford must have been in youth singularly handsome; but his eyes, later in life, acquired a sinister stare,—significant of the voluptuary. His lips were full, and with something of the Keats sensuousness about them. Beckford disliked the Academy, and indeed all cliques; railed at picture-cleaners; and hated haggling at bargains for articles of *virtù*,—naming his price at once, he was generally unalterable. He liked to mention the fact of his being once introduced to Dr. Johnson, whom he found sulky. George the Second had seen him in his aunt's arms at St. James's; and the young king, George the Third, had petted him. As a collector, some curious things happened to him:—

"Some singular contingencies occurred as to his purchases, connected with the lapse of years and changes in life. He was not in London at the sale of the Esdaile collection of drawings. He gave a London printseller a *carte blanche* as to price, to purchase on his behalf. A few articles were purchased there for him, and among them two coloured drawings by Albert Dürer, one a highly-coloured representation of a parrot's wing. He had seen this sixty years before, in the possession of an old abbé at Vienna, who would not sell it, and when the owner died he bequeathed his collection to the Imperial Library. When the French took that city these drawings were stolen, passed through several hands into the Esdaile collection, and were purchased for Mr. Beckford. So with the Strawberry Hill collection sold by Lord Waldegrave. Towards the close of Horace Walpole's life, he was annoyed by hearing of the extent of Mr. Beckford's collection, and his extravagant purchases, which he said would raise the price of articles of *virtù* so high, that it would prevent his adding to his own collection, and he became irritated about it, declaring that in all events Mr. Beckford should not have anything of his, and he therefore entailed his property on so many that it appeared next to impossible that Mr. Beckford should survive them all. Singular to say, Mr. Beckford did outlive them all, and purchased many important curiosities, which were conveyed to Lansdown. He himself went more than once, and taking up a little tazza, said, 'I will have this mounted in gold,' his agent purchasing it accordingly."

Yet, as a collector, he had no arrangement; and kept his choice engravings stuffed in drawers all over his house. One of his fancies was to have in each of his rooms articles of every class of *virtù*, so that he might have them ready to illustrate a conversation. The following is a specimen of the manner of this enthusiast about trifles:—

"After waiting a few minutes in the great parlour, he came in, and we again went through the rooms we had seen, and those not seen the day before. One of them contained some charming Polembergs; in another he directed my attention to three large volumes containing a matchless set of the portraits after Van Dyck, which had been purchased for him at the sale of the collection of Count Fries, at Amsterdam, for twelve hundred florins. 'There,' he said, 'are Vandycks to fall down to and worship. Such glorious impressions can nowhere be found—let's try a volume.' Before I could offer to help him, he had pulled one of them out, and notwithstanding its great weight, had run to the window with it. It must be recollected that he was then in his eighty-third year. This volume contained some wonderful prints, and fully bore out the character he had given it. He afterwards pulled out many more magnificent works, and insisted upon not having any aid in carrying them

about. After viewing these apartments, we returned to the grand staircase, the walls of which were hung with fine pictures, chiefly portraits of his family and their connexions."

Like Herne, and many other heartless men, Beckford was passionately sentimental; lavishly charitable by fits; fond of rearing monuments to pet dogs; and sighing over a marble statue of his dead child.

As an authority, this book is quite worthless. There is no art in its construction. You might as well call a hodman an architect as this writer an author. He heads the work with raw pages of dates and pedigrees, gives us extracts forty and fifty pages long; drags in a forgotten novel of Mr. Beckford, and condenses the whole of his Spanish and Portuguese diary. Nor are his omissions less reprehensible. He does not allude to his relationship to Peter Beckford, who wrote the first English book on hunting; nor to another Beckford who wrote an excellent description of the West Indies,—as remarkable for strong sensuous perception as the work of his kinsman. He forgets well-known stories, such as Beckford's surprise on finding the Fonthill Tower gone, and he pleads guilty to slanders by not mentioning them. He proves his hero only a choleric *dilettante*,—fond of a certain selfish voluptuous solitude, and spending his time in hasty purchases of agate cups, Rembrandt sketches, Etruscan vases, old engravings,—none of which he understood thoroughly or knew scientifically. He could draw tolerably, improvise on the piano, talk pretentiously on heraldry, arrange flowers ingeniously; and in this sort of sensual trifling—if not in some worse pleasures—this Dives spent his life, to die loved by nobody,—and in a few short years to be remembered by nobody, the worthless Sardanapalus of this later age,—the discomfited Babel-builder, whose life was like his own tower—rotten at the foundation.

On a recent visit to the seat of his old glory in Wiltshire, we gathered from the mouth of an old keeper of Beckford, who had lived in his service ever since he was old enough to drive turkeys about with a scarlet rag tied to the end of a kidney-bean stick, a few odds and ends about the voluptuary, which we make a present of to the unknown writer of his life. This old keeper told us that his master was very hot-tempered, but that it was soon over: he once leaped out of his pony-carriage and broke a shepherd's head, because he did not open a gate properly, or got in his way with his sheep. Before he had got a mile further on, he stopped his carriage, and sent back a 5*l*. note to the shepherd, who said he should like to have his head broken every day, if he could but have the same plaister. Another time Master struck a woman he caught inside his walls, but he instantly sent her a guinea and as much firewood as four horses could draw. In the same impetuous way, for good or bad, when the fox-hunters were out, he kept all his keepers guarding his plantations, to prevent their entrance,—and yet he was severe against poachers, and allowed no game of his to be killed by trespassers. On one occasion, two desperate poachers were caught, and were about to be sent for trial; but their wives went to Bath and begged Mr. Beckford to forgive them, which he did directly, much to the keeper's indignation. One severe winter he kept hundreds of men at work cutting roads through the snow for the farmers. His master told him he had once fired a gun off, but, as it made his head ache, he never did it again. He remembered the Tower falling. Contrary to the very improbable tale which we have quoted above from the anonymous writer, he said it



sounded like a cannon miles off. He remembered Lord Nelson coming. When he came out on the lawn and heard the militia band, Mr. Beckford said to him, "Well, Nelson, how do you like that?" and Nelson, who was followed by two black servants, replied, "Why, Beckford, I had rather be at sea hearing the wind blowing and the guns roaring." Master kept two doctors: one of physic, and one of divinity. His cook was French, and his valet English. Master never went to church; and called Sunday "Fools' Day." Master lost his chief money by an agent, who persuaded him to sign a paper, giving him a small plot of land just for a garden in Jamaica: and this plot turned out to be half master's estates. He remembered the agent's coming to the Abbey, for he was sent out as a boy to fish with Mrs. Whaleman; and when her rod broke he spliced it with his garter. Master built little cottages for tea-parties up in the woods; and his daughters lived at Berwick, away from him. There were nine miles of carriage-drive; and Mr. Beckford used to drive his four ponies round them every day. The property was now chopped into three pieces. The present Abbey was only part of one of the old wings of Alderman Beckford's house. The alderman built the Inigo Jones archway, and made the large lake where the twenty pair of swans now swim. Master was wondrously fond of flowers, and had a mile of greenhouses. He never used to see people, except Sir Richard Colt Hoare and one or two people from London.

Such was the sort of gossip the old man poured into our willing ear,—all tending to rather a more kind and familiar view of this man, whom a foolish mother and a parasitic world had united to spoil.

1. *The Statute-Book for England, Collection of Public Statutes relating to the General Law of England, 21 & 22 Vict., 1858.*—2. *Classification of English Statutes.* Edited by James Bigg. (Simpkin, Marshall & Co.)

THE Statute Law Commission has now been at play for some years. That it still exists we have good, if not the most satisfactory, evidence, in the fact that it annually swallows a portion of the public money. Its appetite, however, is not what it was. Last year we are told it consumed 2,337l. This year it has only devoured 1,861l. There is, however, an unknown quantity,—a sum which will be required, "the amount of which the secretary is at present unable to conjecture," which looks alarming. We trust, however, that the appetite of the Commission may still decrease, or, at any rate, that it may not be satisfied at the public expense until some other and more useful sign of vitality than any that has yet been seen has been shown. If the Commission will not work, neither should it eat. The payment of upwards of 20,000l. in five years, with the return only of a few Blue-books of no great value, cannot be considered a very satisfactory application of public money. The very Blue-books have now ceased to appear; and it is high time that some of those less ornamental members of Parliament, who condescend to check the public accounts, should just inquire into the Statute Law Commission, and see whether we are ever to get any return for our money.

In this state of things the motto of every reasonable man who is doomed to study our statute-books is *Speravi*. An occasional benediction bestowed upon all Chancellors and Chancellors' pets, alone shows that at one time the wretched man put his trust in the Statute Law Commission.

We should be sorry to rouse the lawyer from

this state of mind, by holding out hopes of relief from the statutory burthen that oppresses him, while there is any doubt as to the certainty of that relief. We would not act the part of the tormentor, to hand down the empty bucket to the wretch that is dying from thirst.

At the same time, the frightful extent of the evil, and the small hope that exists of any assistance from Governments or Commissions, gives to every private attempt to improve our statute-book a title to our most careful consideration.

The first number of Mr. Bigg's 'Statute-Book for England' appeared in the early part of the present year, and in the notice of this number in the *Athenæum* [No. 1587], we shortly stated the outline of his plan, and reserved its fuller consideration until a further number of the work should appear. The plan of the work is this. The work is stereotyped, and each act is printed in such a manner that it may be removed from the book without rendering any other act imperfect. At the end of each Session of Parliament, those pages of the Acts of the previous Sessions comprised in this work, in which amendments have been made, are recomposed with the amended provisions in italic type. These pages, with those of the corresponding leaves of the sheet (to avoid single leaves), are then re-worked, and inserted in the volume in the place of the cancelled leaves. The amendments made by the Session of 1858 in the Acts passed in 1857 are contained in the Supplement to the present volume, and have required the recomposition of nine pages, and the re-working of nineteen additional pages. As this Supplement contains only the amendments made in the Statutes comprised in this publication, which at present are the Statutes of one Session only, the Supplement will of course, as the work proceeds, become much more bulky. Mr. Bigg, however, undertakes, as we understand, to supply his 'Statute-Book of England' with the Supplement for a subscription of one guinea per annum. The publications of the present year do not, however, amount to that sum.

We have stated the plan of the present work that our readers may form their own conclusions as to its practical value. For ourselves, we confess we anticipate much difficulty in thus making the old numbers perfect from Session to Session by the removal and substitution of leaves. While the copies are unsold in the hands of the publishers it may, no doubt, be done, and a purchaser of the back numbers ten years hence may be supplied with the statutes passed since the commencement of the work, as tinkered Session by Session, to the time of his purchase. The same thing may be done by the person who takes in the work as it appears, if he be clever at stitching, so long as the back numbers are kept in their paper wrappers; but the annual operations which would be necessary would weaken the volume, and we should expect a complete dissolution of it, within the seven years allotted as the span of life of the Lower House of Parliament. How this species of consolidation is to be carried on when once the volumes are bound, as they must be if used as books of reference, we are at a loss to conceive. That the old leaves should be cut out, and the new ones pasted in, is what no one could permit.

Again, the book is not the Statute-book of England. The Acts affecting the general law are, indeed, given in full; but some to which in practice it may frequently be necessary to refer, as the statute which declares certain marriages of British subjects abroad to be valid, and those relating to Customs and Excise duties, are not printed. A very careful statement of the effect

of those Acts which are not printed will, however, be found in the Table of Public Statutes.

On the whole, we are bound to state that in our opinion the work will not, by its general utility, fulfil the hopes of the editor. We regret this, and should be glad to find ourselves mistaken, for the care and intelligence with which it is conducted is everywhere apparent. The mass of legislation before the Session of 1857 remains untouched, and the practical difficulties in the way of carrying out the editor's system, as to subsequent legislation, are such as we fear will prevent its being extensively applied.

But if the publication be not useful in the way intended, may it not be of service in another way? The Statute Law Commission has slumbered long and heavily. Under these circumstances, it is disagreeable to be aroused. But will it allow Mr. Bigg year by year thus to register its inactivity? to set forth how it constantly consumes the State barley, but lays the State no eggs? For the credit of the profession to which they belong, let the Commissioners and their confederates bestir themselves, and bring forth in the approaching Session of Parliament a brood of measures worthy of the lengthened incubation which the country has watched with such wondrous patience. If they do so, we may, taking a hint from Her Majesty's proclamation, promise "unconditional pardon, amnesty, and oblivion of all offences." At present, they stop the way. In the words of the policeman, they "must move on," or be removed.

In the two numbers of the 'Classification of Statutes' we have those relating to Joint-Stock Companies and to Probates and Divorces, with Indices in a convenient form. The provisions which have been subsequently amended or repealed are distinguished by italic types, with a marginal reference to the amending or repealing enactment.

*From New York to Delhi, by Way of Rio de Janeiro, Australia, and China.* By Robert J. Minturn, Jun. (Longman & Co.)

THERE is such a healthy, manly, English tone about this book, it is such pleasant reading, and shows such powers of observation, that we are inclined to overlook its faults, or call them by a different name. This visitor of a day, who skimmed through India like a falcon on the wing, found yet opportunity to stoop on many a goodly fact, and has quarried more truths in his brief flight than flocks of travellers of a less vigorous plume. His keen sight has detected at once the falsehood of those accusations which made the Company's Ráj so unpopular here, and hastened its fall. The acuteness with which he has discerned the difference between the character of the Mohammedan and that of the Hindú, and has discovered the weak points of both, is remarkable. His power of description is no less uncommon, and in this point he does not fall far short of Heber, and is one of the few writers on India whose notices of places would be a real help to the compiler of a guide-book. But with all this capacity in the author, we regret that we are unable to say more of the work than that it is very pleasant reading. To those, indeed, who know India only from books, the volume will appear deserving of unqualified praise. It will be like the author's own first impressions of Lucknow, and be viewed "with unalloyed pleasure." But a better acquaintance with the subjects treated will "destroy the illusion," and show whitewash for marble in too many places. It is the more requisite to point out the defects of such writers as Mr. Minturn, because their opinions make way into the mind of the reader, while the



representations of a dull fellow are passed over with a pshaw!

We shall not have far to seek to establish our case. We have only to open the map at the commencement of the book to light upon a goodly sprinkling of inaccuracies. In the Map of Languages, Sindhi, Malayalam, and Hindústani are altogether omitted, to say nothing of Tuluva, Kachhi, Assamese, and Cingalese, which last ought certainly to be introduced, as Ceylon is included in the map. In the Map of Political Divisions we are somewhat surprised to find Maisûr and Orissa among the Independent States and classed with the Nizam's dominions, and with *Trecanor (sic)*; while the principality ruled by 'Ali Murâd in Sindh is omitted. Turning to the first page of the Preface, we come upon an exaggeration in the very first line. In order to take from the tour the appearance of haste, it is said to be a tour of six months, whereas the author landed at Calcutta on the 15th of October, 1856, and finished his tour at Bombay on the 6th of March, and indeed left India just as the five months were completed. This tendency to exaggeration is very noticeable throughout, and it is fortified by a quiet hardihood of assertion which disarms suspicion. Mr. Minturn paints the natives in the blackest colours; and in order to justify his opinion of them often makes statements which must be taken with the grain of salt. We do not think, for example, that their character is inexplicably inconsistent, or that they are so destitute of certain noble feelings as he would make them appear in the following sentence:—"How can Englishmen or Americans ever rightly appreciate people who have no expression in any of their languages for *Sindh*, the country in which they live; no equivalent for 'thank you,' and no word for 'patriotism' and many such ideas!" These lines are meant to convey an impression of the people of India which is altogether erroneous, and so far from admitting the author's assertion, we maintain that it simply displays his ignorance of the Eastern languages. To a Muslim, *Hind* conveys the idea of India, as in the well-known expression, *Sindh wa Hind*, "the countries between the Indus and the Ganges." And Hindústân is fully understood to mean India, when it is used in opposition to *Wîlayat*, "Europe" or "Persia." To the Marâthâ and to most of the people of India *Bharatâkhand* or *Bharatavarsham* is quite intelligible, and implies the whole region from the Himalayas to Cape Komorin. As a sequence to the idea that there is no general name for India, Mr. Minturn assures us and himself that even the word *patriotism* is unknown in that country; but *watan-dostî*, *hubbu'l watan*, *swadeshapriti*, and several other words, according to the province, are just as well known to the natives of India as the word "*patriotism*" is to us, and there is no man more ready to die for his country than the true Râjpût. "Ah, Sâhib!" said one of the exiled Amirs of Sindh, "the shade of a tree in my own country is better than the palace of the stranger." It must be confessed, however, that the people of India are not the only sufferers by Mr. Minturn's assertions, for the next object of his attacks is the Asiatic Society of this country. He has chosen in spelling Indian names an orthography of his own, with which we are not altogether dissatisfied, and can at least say of it that it is better than the common method; but he is not content to adopt it without a stroke at Oriental scholars in England, whose scheme, he alleges, has the disadvantage of giving to every vowel a sound different from its English pronunciation. This he

establishes by examples in which *e* in *there*, *i* in *bid*, and *o* in *so*, are among the first that occur!

Turning over a few pages we find the following remark:—"Soo-chow, a city of about two millions of inhabitants, though in China not of the first class." Now, with the exception of Woo-chang, the capital of Hoo-pih, and perhaps Pekin, we doubt much if there be a city in China with a population exceeding two millions. Nankin, to judge from the vast space within its walls covered with gardens and groves, certainly falls short of this standard. In any case it is an absurd exaggeration to say that Soo-chow-foo, the capital of the great province of Keang-soo, and perhaps the richest city in Northern China, is not to be included in the Chinese Schedule A. At Calcutta, the author pays a visit to one of the Amirs of Sindh, and gives such a sparkling account of his jewels as could only have been written by the light of Aladdin's lamp. Swords worth 40,000*l.*, and daggers of half that value, we can assure Mr. Minturn exist only in the treasury of the Arabian Nights, and lose all their value the instant they are drawn from that very proper receptacle for them. Other statements in his account of this same visit are no less apocryphal, and not so innocent: as, for example, the following:—"At the end of the volume were the signatures of the other Amirs, the brothers and cousins of our entertainer, who wrote them there when they swore on this book, to be faithful until death to him and each other, having done which, with the usual fidelity of the natives, they betrayed him to the English the same day." Had Mr. Minturn mentioned the name of the Amir, the utter baselessness of this censure would have been at once apparent to all who have read the story of *Sindh* and its conquest. As it is, we must briefly assign the treason to the same armoury where the swords and daggers were produced.

But enough regarding these inaccuracies and exaggerations, the list of which might easily be swelled. Our object in noting them is to disarm Mr. Minturn's general attack upon the native character of much of its force. If he be wrong in many statements, as to which demonstration of the fact is easy, we may assume that his judgment is equally at fault on points which are mere matters of opinion. His *animus* with regard to the natives is indeed apparent in every page. Thus, to show the superiority of the European, he tells us the adventurer, George Thomas, "would have deposed Ranjit Singh and obtained his power had it not been for the jealousy of certain French officers." A reckless assertion of this sort is not of much consequence. Those who read Indian history will judge whether a man who could not maintain himself in the petty barony of Hariânâh, would have been likely to conquer from the renowned leader of the Sikhs the rich kingdom of the Five Rivers. But when the character of the higher classes in India is summed up in the terms that we find in Mr. Minturn's pages the case is more serious. He says, "Now, when we consider that; in addition to all this treachery, moral cowardice and degradation, a native gentleman lives in the habitual practice of crimes so loathsome that no convict in our prisons would not shrink from the charge of them, if made against himself, I am sure it will be a subject of wonder, not that all who know their character should despise them, but that any man who respects himself should be willing to mingle with them on terms of equality." If this were really true, and if the general opinion Mr. Minturn has formed of the natives of India were fully borne out, we should indeed have a key to that want of sympathy between Englishmen and Indians of which he speaks,

and of the existence of which we were not aware,—a want of sympathy compared to which our feeling towards negroes in America is a warm affection." But we have said enough to show that the *dicta* in this volume are not to be unhesitatingly received. We turn now to the more pleasing features of the book. The following picture of Lucknow may be taken as a specimen of our author's descriptive powers:

"On crossing the iron bridge over the Goomtee, the view before me astonished even more than it delighted me. I knew beforehand that the city of Lucknow was a place of over two hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants, that it had been for years the capital of the most fertile portion of the Ganges valley, and that, until within some months of my visit, it had been the seat of the most considerable and splendid native court in India; still I had been so much disappointed by all the native towns which I had seen (except Bénarâs, the architectural features of which are quite peculiar to itself and different from those of all other towns in India) that I was wholly unprepared for the magnificent *coup-d'œil* which presented itself to me on the further bank of the river. The city, which extends for several miles along the bank, seemed one mass of majestic and beautiful buildings, of dazzling whiteness, crowned with domes of burnished gold, while scores of minars, many of them very high, lent to the scene that airy grace for which they are so famous. The whole picture was like a dream of fairy land. I stopped the horse and gazed upon the view for a few minutes with unalloyed pleasure. Here, at last, I thought, I have come upon some real 'Oriental magnificence'—this place will give me a vivid idea of the proud state of the Emperors of Delhi. True, the princes who built these mighty palaces no longer inhabit them; they no longer worship Allah in these glorious temples which they have reared as grand tributes to the supremacy of a pure monotheism; but still their buildings bear witness to their mightiness and wealth, and even if their strength was used in tyranny, and their riches gained by extortion, yet this employment of their power and money in promoting art and beauty, gives us a lurking feeling of regret that Justice should demand the utter abolition of the Moalem's rule. \* \* After threading these narrow streets for half a mile or so, we passed through a great gateway, and entered an open paved square used as a market, and having on one side a large but deserted and dingy-looking palace. At the further end of this square was another gateway, the Room-ee-Durwâz—the most magnificent structure of the kind I had seen. Passing through it we entered another square, similar to the first, but larger. It was also surrounded by several mosques, of which, by far the finest and most conspicuous, was the Imâmbara on the left. \* \* The Lucknow Imâmbara consists of two courts, rising with a steep ascent, one above the other. Each of these courts is entered by a noble archway, and is, I should think, two hundred feet square. \* \* On leaving the Imâmbara, I visited several other mosques of great size. Their architecture left but little to desire, but the inferiority of the materials employed in their construction, and the general want of repair, were painfully evident. I also went to see the old Imâmbara, at no great distance from the new edifice of the same name. Its general arrangement is similar to that of the new one, but its size is greater, and it includes a college and other buildings. It is with reference to this building that Bishop Heber says, 'taken in conjunction with the Room-ee-Durwâz which adjoins it, I have never seen an architectural view which pleased me more from its richness and variety, as well as the proportions and good taste of its principal features. The details a good deal resemble those of Eaton, the Earl of Grosvenor's seat in Cheshire, but the extent is much greater, and the parts larger. On the whole it is, perhaps, most like the Kremlin; but, both in splendour and taste, my old favourite falls far short of it.' Since the construction of the new Imâmbara the old building is deserted, and its courts are used as a Surai. The walls are almost black with mould, and it sadly needs a coat of whitewash. After

viewing these mosques, I drove my buggy through the market-squares around which they are situated. The day was now so far advanced that the squares, which in the morning were almost deserted, were thickly crowded with tradesmen and others. The spacious market-place, the gay dress of the inhabitants, the beautiful outline of the mosques, and the dark mass of the old Imambara and Palsce, made a scene which I shall not soon forget, and not the least part of which was that noble structure the Room-ee-Durwazu, separating the two squares. The material of which it is built is, to be sure, defective, and the details are liable to criticism, but in size, grace, and the beauty of the general, I do not believe that it is surpassed by any gateway in the world."

Mr. Minturn has a theory respecting the wretchedness of the people of Oudh, and the wicked oppression and miserable incapacity of their kings. He is afraid, therefore, to admit the fact, that Lucknow before the present war was the richest and most superb city in India. It would not exactly favour his views to tell the reader that the English, with the wealth and commerce of all India at their back, have not made Calcutta in a century what the sovereigns of Oudh made their capital in little more than half the time. After his first burst of enthusiasm, therefore, he becomes very depressed, and declares the beauty of the city to be all outside show, and the public buildings very imposing indeed and tasteful, but flimsy and deceptive. But being naturally lively, he presently finds these sombre views irksome, and breaks out into fresh raptures, and is so agreeable that he may readily be forgiven for his little *tour d'artifice*.

Mr. Minturn certainly made good use of the brief time he was in India. He passed from Calcutta to Landr and Ambala, and thence by Agra and Ajmir to Bombay,—and this route sufficed to show him six of the most famous Indian cities—Benares, Allahabad, Lucknow, Delhi, Agra, and Jaypur. He visited also some of the stations in the Himalayas.

In his dealings with the natives Mr. Minturn reaped the golden fruit of his theories regarding them. He cuffed and anathematized them openly, and they cringed and execrated him in secret. It is perhaps well for himself that his tour ended before the risings commenced, or some treasured memory of a blow might have expanded into vengeance. Those who treat the native servants well find in them the most attached and faithful of attendants.

In order to travel comfortably in India Mr. Minturn has many things to learn, and among them the languages. He assures us that he paid some attention to these, but the mistakes he makes are ample evidence that his progress was not proportionate to his zeal. The former name of Allahabad, he tells us, was "*Deeg*," which means 'junction' in Sanskrit." We thought the ancient name of that city was *Prayag*, signifying "sacrifice" in Sanskrit. If in speaking to his servants Mr. Minturn called waxed canvas *manzama*, and made no distinction between *gora* and *ghora*, we can easily understand how his commands were misinterpreted or disobeyed. At page 226, he tells us, that Lord Lake recognized the King of Delhi as "the *fidai* or feudal sovereign of the Company,"—which is much the same as if some of our City magnates should address our august Ally across the Channel as *Mon Serviteur*! *Fidai* is, in fact, the word with which the humble epistle of a *munshi*, were he imitating the English style of letter-writing, would conclude, and signifies "your devoted servant." In another place, we are told of the Princess Pudda Mahout for Padmavati. But with all his faults, we like Mr. Minturn well, and are

sure that he needs only study and attention to produce a better and truly valuable book.

*Euripides. With an English Commentary.* By F. A. Paley. Vol. II. (Whittaker & Co.) Mr. Paley's present volume includes the following plays:—"Ion," "Helena," "Andromache," "Electra," "Bacchæ," and "Hecuba." In its general character it resembles the first, the notes being chiefly explanatory, but rather more copious, because the plays are less frequently read, and the facilities for understanding them are not so great. There is the same directness of aim and vigour of execution. Practical usefulness is the be-all and end-all of Mr. Paley's efforts. We are not quite sure whether he does not begin to show signs of having drunk even too deeply into the spirit of his great ancestor's utilitarian philosophy. In defending himself for having brought out a second volume of such a size within a year after the first, he adopts the tone rather of a man of the world than a scholar,—of a bookseller than a writer:—

"There is no doubt [he says] that to do the fullest justice to such an author as Euripides, even after all that has already been done by others, the labour of half a life would not be too much. But where is the man now to be found who would consent to spend half a life on so thankless a task? Would the present age appreciate his labours, or in any way reward such heroic devotion to Greek literature? Posterity might indeed honour him; but the present age would more probably regard him, perhaps not altogether unjustly, as a martyr to a mere whim, and as wasting years that might have been far more profitably employed to the benefit of mankind. The fact is, when a demand arises, in consequence of any changes introduced into our scholastic systems, such a demand must be supplied without unreasonable delay. A work like the present must be done, not, indeed, *hastily* (for that is altogether inexcusable), but *quickly*, because it is wanted."

This supreme regard for the present, and this depreciation of exertions which are directed to any other object than immediate reward, are not exactly what might have been expected from a genuine lover of learning and art. It may be true enough, that to spend half a life in editing Euripides would be an error in one direction, but is there not another and more dangerous extreme? Could not some medium be found better than either? What Mr. Paley says about the advantage of writing with energy, while the interest is fresh, the recollection vivid, and the admiration ardent, will not satisfy everybody that the preparation of a volume of Greek plays is like the murder of Duncan, which if done at all, were better done quickly. This is certainly not the way in which the other volumes of the *Bibliotheca Classica*—including Mr. Paley's '*Æschylus*'—have been prepared. We should be exceedingly sorry to see Mr. Paley falling into the habits of a late book-making editor of classical works, whose books, like the razors, were made to sell.

It is not surprising that the present editor of Euripides should confess, that his admiration for the poet grows with his increasing familiarity with his works. There is no doubt Euripides has been unduly depreciated, partly through the hostile ridicule heaped upon him by Aristophanes, and partly through his not having been studied in a right spirit, or tried by a proper standard. No one can avoid being amused by the witty jokes of Aristophanes, and no one can be amused without being in some degree prejudiced against Euripides. And yet it is quite clear that Aristophanes' criticisms spring far more from mere personal hostility on his part, than from any serious literary demerit

in Euripides. There must be great literary excellence in a writer who, as Mr. Paley observes, is surpassed by none but Homer in the general and lasting popularity he has enjoyed, and who, it is well known, was preferred to either of the other Greek tragedians by our own poet Milton. Certainly, if the proper function of the Drama be to represent actual life, Euripides is a dramatist of a high order. It would be difficult to imagine a more truthful and vivid picture of human feeling than he presents in the character of Medea, as a prey to the conflicting emotions of a woman's natural hatred of a successful rival, and vindictive rage against her faithless lord on the one hand, and a mother's instinctive affection for her offspring on the other.

As Mr. Paley has added further observations on Euripides to those in his first volume, we extract a few:—

"Æschylus and Sophocles are difficult at the first sight, and there is no mistaking the fact, that a great amount of study must be expended upon them. But there is a certain *apparent* facility in the style of Euripides, which is very deceptive; and the reader has already been warned against too great confidence in his powers of readily understanding this author. Because some parts, such as the long narratives of messengers, are generally intelligible to a tolerably advanced student, it is assumed that all the parts are much alike, and so the real force and meaning of the dialogue, and of the many argumentative and rhetorically involved speeches are apt to be very imperfectly apprehended. It is not too much to say, that they are often construed without any regard to the logical coherence of one verse with another. Many are struck with the fine versification and the sounding words of the two elder tragic poets, who are unable to see that, in his peculiar way, Euripides challenges our admiration, and demands our most thoughtful attention too, for his deep insight into human nature. Euripides was an independent thinker and reasoner, unfettered by traditional opinions; and his remarks often contain truths at once striking and profound. In a word, he is the most *natural* of all the Greek poets, excepting Homer. Moreover, he is one of the most versatile; he can describe foibles the most varied and opposite with equal truthfulness and power. Parental affection, military valour, self-devoting patriotism, passionate love, sisterly gentleness, the pride of birth, the humble merit of the cottager, the absolute authority of the chieftain, the fidelity of the despised slave, the folly of youth and the sober wisdom of age,—all these and many more traits of human character are well delineated in his dramas.

"In judging of the choral odes of Euripides, we should remember, first, that this part of the Attic drama is at once the least like our own, and the least capable of being fully understood at the present day; secondly, that it is very difficult indeed, in criticising Art, to distinguish that which is really *decline* from that which is *legitimate development*. We might instance the well-known case of Gothic architecture, in which some will insist that the perpendicular lines and the excessive ornamentation of surfaces prevalent during the fifteenth century are a debasement from the rich and shadowy profiles and recessed arcades of the thirteenth century. But here also there are different opinions. It is presumptuous to lay our finger upon one particular period of antiquity (and especially of a very remote antiquity), and to say, This is the standard of excellence, by which all that went before and all that followed after must be tested. That the dialogue in the Attic drama (and still more, as we shall have to notice below, the *descriptive* or epic element), gradually superseded the lyric, or, to speak quite plainly, that talking and narrating was found to be a more effective mimetic aid than dancing and singing, seems clear from a comparison of the long *Æschylean stasima* with the generally shorter odes of Euripides, especially as the wider scope of the subjects in the latter, so often alleged as a fault, may be regarded rather as an effort to separate the true action,



conducted by the dialogue, from the merely accessory choral parts which mark the intervals of that action. It would not be difficult to show, that in this respect Euripides really followed the soundest principles of Art."

Though Mr. Paley has not found time to prepare a new revision of the text of Euripides, he has called attention to a circumstance which may assist future editors in the work; and that is, the apparently designed allotment, in many cases, of the same number of verses to two persons who carry on a discussion together. He points out ten instances of undeniable agreement in the number of verses, and thinks the law may be turned to good account in detecting interpolations, and so purifying the text.

*A Handbook for Travellers in Surrey, Hampshire, and the Isle of Wight.* With Map. (Murray.)

VERY many years have not elapsed since a British nobleman, travelling abroad, with antiquarian tastes and a purpose of gratifying them, was looking over a folio volume, rich in engravings and elevations of the most famous churches. He examined them with delight; but he was humiliated, he said, by the reflection that England could not boast of such architectural glories. Great was his surprise when he was informed that the edifices before him were the works of British, and not of Italian, artists. "My attention," said he, "has never been directed to them."

As with the antiquary, so it has long been with the lover of the picturesque, with the geologist, with the pilgrim who loves to repair to shrines and localities hallowed of old by genius or greatness of any sort. There has long been wanting to all these, in and for England, a comprehensive series of Handbooks executed by competent hands, by aid of which the antiquary might find the treasures he most coveted, the seeker of the picturesque traverse new scenes of beauty, the geologist study new sermons in old, but hitherto hidden, stones, and the pilgrim, staff in hand and knapsack on back, wend from one scene of interest to another sanctified by philosophers, poets, historians, artists, warriors, and patriots,—the great and the good of all classes and counties.

Hitherto, for the most part, we have had only county histories costly to the subscriber, or worthless local guides that convey no real intelligence to the purchaser, and give him no help in the way of accomplishing a tour or a pilgrimage at home. In these Handbooks, the case is different. Here, for instance, in the volume before us, a couple of counties and a true isle of beauty are classed together; and we believe that there is nothing worthy of notice in either that is not recorded by the compiler. It seems, as we read, that half of these places have never had historians or guides. New roads, new incidents, new points of view, open upon us at every turn; and the man would be hard to please who, knowing these counties but indifferently, should spend his vacation holiday in traversing them in their length and their breadth, and, after comparing the cost and the pleasure with those of a preceding year's foreign excursion, should say he was but little satisfied with the result.

As a matter of education, no man should proceed to make acquaintance with other countries till he knows his own with some degree of familiarity;—and this is just the book to enable him to form that loving intimacy with small trouble and cost. Generally speaking, we have cared too little for our English home. When a publisher in the Strand, in our fathers' days, lived and flourished by selling foreign

guide-books only, it was clear that curiosity, if not affection, had a powerful tendency to carry holiday-makers from their own shores. The real fact, however, was this. Few men knew how to reach with moderate ease of person and purse the scenes they most desired to visit. Travelling was a serious matter, then; and a pedestrian with a knapsack on his shoulder seldom or never experienced his warmest welcome at an inn. Now, all that is changed. The iron roads convey the traveller swiftly and cheaply to the pleasant locality he designs to explore. Once on its borders, he may walk for a month,—he will not go astray with a Handbook in his pocket; and he will be welcome at every inn, even with a knapsack on his back. And cheerful objects in the picture are these very travellers! How happy, and healthy, and free they look!—how full of pleasant memories and agreeable designs yet to be accomplished!—how manly, young and old, for they are to be found of all ages, as they hasten over the hills, and through the valleys, and along the green lanes, towards the station whence the train is to whirl them to their ease and their inns,—miles and miles away!

The plan of this volume being exactly similar to that of the 'Handbook for Kent and Sussex,' recently noticed by us, we will rather look through the present portion of the English county series for what is *not* there, than for what *is*. It is seldom that we find an individual of whom a place has reason to be proud who is not named. One exception occurs in the case of that tough old Admiral—Hopson,—a gallant fellow, who was esteemed by James the Second, promoted by William, and rewarded by Anne. Shovel loved him as a shipmate, and Sir George Rooke was rather jealous of him as a rival. A writer treating of a naval arsenal like Portsmouth, and especially of an island like the Isle of Wight, of which doughty Hopson was a native, should have given due honour to the bold ex-tailor, who in the ship Torbay broke the famous and formidable boom at Vigo, and made all England glad for a season in the glory of her son.

The most curious incident of that memorable day was a laughable one. The enemy sent a fire-ship to destroy Hopson and the Torbay; but as the cargo of the former consisted of only a few barrels of gunpowder and (by mistake) a great many of snuff, the explosion was followed by such a sneezing in Hopson's vessel, that the men could hardly stand to their guns for laughing.

It is worth remembering that in 1695, the tailor-lad who had run away from the island years before, impelled by the seductive sight of a fleet, towards one ship of which he pulled off in a boat, and there volunteered, was now a man, commander of the force blockading Dunkirk; and when the period of the ex-tailor's service was over he was succeeded by the as tough ex-shoemaker, Cloudesley Shovel. There are not many such curious incidents as these in naval history, and the memory of them is worth preserving. Admiral Crispin has, generally speaking, outlived the memory of Admiral Snip,—as Hopson's enemies called him, though not in his hearing. Nevertheless, the men of Niton and Bonchurch have not forgotten the career of the wild slip of a tailor-lad who fled from home and shopboard, went before the mast,—served as Lieutenant in the Dreadnought, the Dragon, the Centurion, and the Mary,—rose to be Captain of the Tiger, the Bonaventure, the York, the St. Michael, and the Swan,—was a rough and tough and young Commodore,—hoisted his Admiral's pennant in the Breda, the Russel, and the Prince George;

—in triumphs, heightened the glory of his country,—in reverses, saved her from disgrace, and, finally, in the "Ship Torbay," still the commemorative sign of many a house from Greenwich to Land's End, broke the famous Vigo boom amid a "*feu d'enfer*" from French and Spanish ships and forts,—such as made noble Commanders hesitate for a moment, but could not daunt the fearless soul of the ex-tailor of Niton. To omit notice of him in a record of the Isle of Wight is sheer injustice. He is still talked of about the Needles, where his story adorns legendary remnants of the battle at Beachy Head, in which he distinguished himself. His thread of life was cut in 1717, and with his "bodkin" (as he used to call his sword) on his breast, there was borne to the grave Sir Thomas Hopson, a gallant man both as tailor and sailor.

And yet, see what is fame! Hopson lies unnoticed under some modest green-baize of earth, and lesser men have larger monuments. Witness that gorgeous tomb in Reigate Church.—"In the south chancel is the monument of Edward Bird, Esq., died 1718" (the year after our gallant Schneider of Niton). "He appears with wig and truncheon, and with a 'back-ground of warlike instruments'; to all which accompaniments he was so far entitled that he was a lieutenant in 'the Marquis of Winchester's regiment of horse,' and 'had the misfortune to kill a waiter near Golden Square!'"

Before concluding, we subjoin two samples of different sorts of information to be found in this volume. The first has some new details respecting Aldershot.

"The heath was surveyed by engineers from the camp at Chobham in 1853, and again in the spring of 1854, in the summer of which year a permanent camp was established here; the canvas of Chobham being replaced by wood and iron. It is now to all intents a wooden town; far too permanent for many purposes of military training, though found by no means too comfortable either by officers or men. The best general views of the camp are obtained from the high ground S. and S.W., either from the neighbourhood of the Queen's Pavilion, or from the wooden church. There are two camps, N. and S., divided by the Basingstoke Canal. The S. camp can accommodate 12,000 men, the N. 8,000. Together they cover an area of 7 square miles. Both the camps are divided into lettered blocks, each of which contains about 40 huts. The officers' hut contains 8 rooms, each officer having one, though his room can only be called private by courtesy, since his neighbour's conversation, flute-playing, and cornet-blowing, are distinctly audible through the wooden partitions. Each of the men's huts is arranged to hold 22 men. Other huts in the block are appropriated as mess-room, canteen, school-room, stables, wash-house, &c. The huts are all built of Memel fir, and cost about 150*l.* apiece. The blocks are arranged in square masses, and divided by regular streets. Two churches have been erected for the troops, one of wood, and a second of cast iron, with stained glass windows;—this is on higher ground than the first church, and commands a very good general view of the camps. Between the 2 churches are the schools, and a large wooden building for amateur theatricals, much patronized at Aldershot. The camp is already tolerably well supplied with water, but it is proposed to bring a more ample supply from the hill of 'Caesar's Camp,' where the springs are excellent and unfailing. On the rising ground which overlooks the camp from the S.W. are quarters for the officer in command of the camp, and others for the Commander-in-Chief, marked by a clump of dark firs. Beyond these is the Queen's Pavilion—long and low, and built (but at a cost of 5,000*l.*) in the same manner as an Aldershot hut. It contains a drawing-room, dining-room, and about half a dozen bed-rooms,—the doors of which are marked with the names of their respective occupants. The offices, including the kitchens, are below the hillock on which the Pavilion stands;



and the dishes are conveyed upwards through a glass-roofed tunnel, by means of a lift. The interior of the Pavilion is quite inaccessible, to all visitors, and at all times. Stretching away from the Pavilion, and lining the old road to Ash, permanent barracks have lately (1857) been erected at an enormous expense, capable of accommodating about 700 men of all arms. Two of these barracks enclose a space  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. in length, and 400 ft. wide. 80,000 troops might be drilled on this ground, which is intended to be the chief infantry parade-ground for Aldershot."

The following has reference to old matters, several portions of which are better known than others:—

"The manor of Merdon was surrendered to the Crown by Bishop Poynt, temp. Edward VI.; and toward the middle of the seventeenth century it became the property of Richard Cromwell, son of the great Protector, through his marriage with the daughter and heiress of Richard Major, Esq. His residence was at Hursley Park, where, it is said, he would occasionally seat himself on an old oaken chest, and boast that he had beneath him the lives and properties of the best men in England. The chest contained the addresses which had been made to him on succeeding his father as Lord Protector. After the restoration, Richard Cromwell retired for some years to the Continent. His daughters retained possession of Hursley, and on his return, in 1680, refused to restore it, offering their father a small annuity instead. During the trial which followed (and which terminated in his favour), Cromwell wandered into the House of Lords, where one of the officers, who was present, pointed out to him the various objects of interest, asking him whether 'he had ever been in that house before.'—'Never,' replied Cromwell, 'since I sat in that chair,' pointing to the throne. At his death his daughters sold the manor to Sir William Heathcote, who pulled down the old house, in consequence of a vow that 'because it had belonged to the Cromwells he would not let one stone remain upon another, even in the foundations.' In one of the walls was found the seal of the Commonwealth, supposed by the artist Vertue, who saw it, to be the actual seal which Oliver took from the Parliament. The present house of Hursley (Sir W. Heathcote) is of white brick, with stone basement and dressings. The park in which it stands is large and well wooded. In the house, among other pictures, are good portraits of Sir Thomas Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell; and, together with numerous letters relating to the Cromwell family, there is preserved here a snuff grater, or rasp, of beech or lime tree, curiously carved, and ornamented with the arms of the Commonwealth, and the initials of Richard Cromwell. (From this mode of preparing tobacco, snuff was called rappee.) Here is also an ancient drinking cup, or mazer, of ash wood, found in the well of Merdon Castle."

There only remains another such a volume as those which have preceded to complete a most perfect account of those counties which, seeing the facilities with which they are reached, may be properly called the Environs of London.

*The Three Maupins; or, the Eve of the Regency* [*Les Trois Maupins, &c.*]. Comedy, in Five Acts, in Prose. By MM. Scribe and Henry Boisseaux. (Paris, Charliou.)

For some time past, M. Scribe has been paying the penalty of greatness in being followed by false rumours.—His comedy that was to be "*La Dernière Pièce*" was announced in the journals three years ago.—He has given up Paris.—He has retired from all his wonted pursuits, owing to a softening of the brain from over-work.—Did not *L'Univers* (that journal so eager in its zeal,—so scrupulous in its facts) announce his recantation of pomps and vanities, and mention the religious order in which the Author of '*Bertrand et Raton*' was to close his career, and atone for his heterodox witticisms?—No matter what has been said or done for M. Scribe,—hoped by dramatists waiting "for dead men's shoes,"

—or invented by penny-a-liners to earn their pence;—here is a five-act comedy, the other day produced at the *Théâtre Gymnase*, with extraordinary success: a play which, among the writer's works of its class, is a master-piece.—For the present, all hopes of M. Scribe's decease, or departure, must be postponed,—whatever be the chagrin caused by the postponement.

That the class of play to which '*The Three Maupins*' belongs is not in favour with us—because it owes more to artifice than art—we need not repeat. How wonderful seemed the first flagree ivory Chinese ball of many balls which we took in hand! How tired have we long since become of the flagree and the interpenetration!—Yet, the craft which makes such toys has laws, humours,—a style, in short, of its own: and thus it is with comedies of intrigue, surprise, intricacy, impossible characters, unexpected events, and overwhelming catastrophes. Stage craftsmanship could not be carried to a more exquisite perfection than in the first four acts of this play. One "stitch" however (as spinsters might put it) has been dropped. The title is incorrect: it should have been "*The Four Maupins*."

Average readers, who never go to operas, may never have heard of *La Maupin*:—though the freaks of that strange French singer have, it occurs to us, been told in the '*Eccentric Magazine*.' Long before Mrs. Bloomer was thought of,—long before Madame Dudevant had donned the *redingote à la Propriétaire*, to which she confesses in her Memoirs,—that strange, violent, outrageous woman, a D'Aubigné by birth:—born somewhere about the year 1673, and brought up in a nunnery, began her life by setting the said nunnery, for a freak, on fire,—continued it in a bad match with a drunkard (even as did Madame Mara),—followed matters up at the Opera of Paris, where she subdued the public, masqueraded it at balls in man's attire,—thus clad, fought (say the Musical Dictionaries) three duels in one night with young gentlemen whom she had affronted,—and, after a time, disappeared. Such was *La Maupin*, so far as we can put trust in history.—It may amuse some to read how MM. Scribe and Boisseaux have turned the tale to the purposes of stage-mystery.

Their *La Maupin* was no D'Aubigné; but that family name has not fallen on deaf ears.—The play opens with three D'Aubignés—poor and noble relations to Madame de Maintenon:—a bold brother, a singing sister, a capital housekeeping Catherine of a cousin. When the play opens, the three are reduced to breakfasting on peaches from the garden-wall, so extreme is their impoverishment: their last bit of meat having been given to a famishing pauper on the threshold.—Unknown to the rest, however, the singing sister has laid their distress before their cousin—the half-Queen of France.—Just when the raw peaches are about to be put on the table there arrives an extricating letter—do such letters ever come in the crises of real misery? *La Maintenon* will charge herself with her kinsfolk—provided they will play her game. She desires that the bold brother will enter the Church, and the singing sister be trained in a convent till she is fit to appear in the holy court of *Louis Quatorze* and his "*Solidity*." Wretched as the prospect is, it is better than raw peaches for breakfast; but its constraining necessities would hardly have been avoided had not M. Scribe recollected the pauper on the door-step. This is *La Maupin*, who had lost her voice,—and had been abandoned by her brutal husband in consequence,—when she was on the road to fulfil a brilliant engage-

ment as a chapel-singer in Paris.—She enters merely to thank her benefactors before departing, but she remains to propose a solution of the D'Aubigné difficulties more cheerful than that pompously offered by *La Maintenon*. *Beatrice* (the singing sister) is to take her name, her place, and her engagement, in Paris; *La Maupin* attending her as maid. *Catherine*, the house-keeping cousin, is to avail herself of the year's training in the nunnery, of which it seems the good creature stood in need.—The brother disappears on his vocation—bent in appearance—no one, however, need fear that he is really going to shave and wear a *soutane*.

Thus is the ground laid down for the first act of this amazing piece of bustle and intrigue. To tell even as imperfectly what happens in the following four-fifths of the comedy would fill an *Athenæum*.—There is a group of liberal court-ladies, tired of *La Maintenon* and her sermons, who agree that Prudery (like every other species of hard work) earns its holidays; and who, when they are supposed to be "in retreat," disappear to a forsaken *château* not far from Versailles, there to enjoy (like Lady Mary Wortley Montagu) "champagne and a chicken," and to hold a female Decameron,—one lady pertinently inquiring, whether a stray cousin or so would be in the way.—There is a group of their obsequious courtier husbands, bent on making their ladies gratify *La Maintenon* by their acquiescence, while they rival each other and regale themselves by courting the star of song, *La Maupin*, whose real, bad reputation ere she arrived at Paris,—her false representative (it is needless to say) had, in no respect, confirmed. There is the bold brother D'Aubigné, who has had no idea of his sister's sacrifice (though it has paid family debts, and advanced himself)—who has taken to the army, there so distinguished himself as to be forgiven for not taking vows by *La Maintenon*,—who has come to Paris, and falls in the way of the *Decameron* ladies. He it is, who to aid his sister in extricating herself from a position which becomes perilous, wears the domino of *La Maupin* at the historical ball, and fights the three duels.—There is *La Maupin's* husband, who, on hearing of his wife's triumphs at Paris, thinks that he might as well track her out,—drink, harbour at her cost, and extort money from her.—There is *La Maupin* herself, whose voice returns at the very neat moment when some last argument was wanted to make the suspense of the fourth act more than ever *piquant*,—this piquancy furnishing means of extrication. In the fifth act, the old story of *La Maupin* having burnt a nunnery down to ensure her escape, is wondrously pressed into the play as the device of a clever woman about to change her life. After having made a fortune by singing in Russia,—having pensioned off her husband who died most conveniently,—being sought in marriage by a great Muscovite nobleman,—the real *La Maupin*,—desirous of destroying all traces of the past, sets her house on fire, gives out that she has perished in the flames,—escapes with the Prince Zabanoff,—arrives in France as a *grande dame*,—and, within half an hour, sets right every possible misunderstanding to which herself, her name, her position, and her voice, may have given occasion.

Such is an outline of M. Scribe's last drama. The amount of share in it which belongs to M. Boisseaux, it is impossible to ascertain; but we fancy that to the veteran must be ascribed that breathless succession of events, surprises, and situations, which make the '*The Three Maupins*' a first-class specimen of not a first-class order of dramas. The dialogue is easy rather than bril-

liant; character, of course, there can be none;—but a certain colour of time and place is given by the hypocritical courtiership of the grave foundress of St-Cyr, on which, and on its consequences, a portion of the action turns.

## NEW NOVELS.

*Mignonette: a Sketch.* By the Author of 'The Curse of Holy Cross.' 2 vols. (Parker & Son.)—In the Preface to the work with the above somewhat fanciful title, the author intimates that it has been written under circumstances of great depression and disappointment, which have communicated their own colour to the story. The author is evidently a kindly-natured man, and writes with the best intentions, but his views of life are, as milliners phrase it, "cut on the bias." The cards go cross with everybody in the book. The writer finds it impossible to make any of his characters happy, except by sending them to Heaven,—that resource is, however, only open to his chief favourites. Most of the characters in the tale are left to live as they can under the most unpleasant circumstances. The chief heroine, whose *soubriquet* Mignonette gives the title to the volume, has a permanent estrangement from her lover, being separated from him, in the first instance, by paternal mandate,—but she takes unreasonable offence at him, refuses to listen, persists in mild implacability, where, by all the laws of common sense and heroic magnanimity, she ought to have relented and pardoned him, to say nothing of the havoc she makes of both his happiness and her own, for she is desperately in love all along. She will, however, listen neither to rhyme nor reason. She frets herself into delicate health, and dies in a provoking saint-and-martyr style. The hero—a really very good and deserving young man—dedicates himself to a life-long grief, and "every year he goes on the first night that the May-moon asserts her undisputed reign" and lays a wreath of mignonette on her grave:—"Yes, Herbert never misses this duty (!), and as he stands above the remains of her who was the dearest thing to him in life, he thinks he beholds through the haze the dim outline of her presence, always ready to welcome the expiation of his one slight inconstancy!" There is another young lady in the book worth a dozen of the heroine, who is well affectionated to him,—but instead of marrying her and making her happy he devotes himself to these wreaths of mignonette and the poor of St. Giles's—always keeping his spirits at the lowest level,—not a very wise young man, even on the showing of his best acquainted friend, the author. The author either does not approve of matrimony, or else he has dejected ideas about it. He is quite clear that no clergyman ought to marry, and that if he does—though it may not be called wrong, the Church permitting such a proceeding out of tenderness for the weakness of human nature,—he ought still to feel abased and humiliated, and to consider that he has chosen only a second best part, where the noble path of voluntary celibacy was open to him. The young women are not encouraged to look for their happiness in marriage either. The charming Miss Christina Percy is left disappointed, and the shadow of past crosses is evoked to enable her to bear her present lot, "if not without bitterness, at least without dismay." The three young curates are all left single and unblest. The one who has allowed his affections to be engaged is made to suffer for the weakness—the young lady dies, and her lover never dreams of such a thing as loving a second time. The hero is crossed in money as well as in love—he has a fine estate bequeathed to him, and after a few months it is spirited away by the discovery of another will. The same allowance of disappointment is meted out even to the inferior characters,—they are most of them treated like a class of school urchins imperfect in their lessons and their bits of arithmetic all reckoned wrong, they are turned back and their sums crossed through. The gentle reader will feel sorry for them. The author has had no misanthropy prepossession, but he evidently does not believe in happiness. He has wonderful notions of the dignity and divinity that ought to hedge the clergyman of

the Church of England—notions which, if attempted to be enforced on the congregations, would make the Dissenters in a majority. The style of the book is itself grave, not well adapted as the vehicle for story-telling;—but the author could easily write a pleasant book, if he were in the vein.

*The Master of Churchill Abbots and his Little Friends: a Tale.* By Florence Wilford. (Masters).—This is a mild, well-bred little book, written in an agreeable tone, without any remarkable ability, but pleasant to read. The characters of the children are well discriminated from each other; they are brought up on high-church principles, but the high-churchism is elegant and picturesque rather than doctrinal,—nothing, except the church decoration with flowers at Easter, which could hurt even the Protestant sensibilities of Mr. Westerton himself.

*Recollections of a Maiden Aunt.* (Saunders & Otley).—There is a dedication to this book declaratory of the "trepidation" with which the author says she has been "induced to brave the criticism of the world, and place before other eyes than the loving ones of her own family the contents of this little book." The reader has nothing to do with an author's misgivings, and ought not to be called on for sympathy or mitigation of judgment. In the present instance the 'Maiden Aunt' has evidently written her mild story for the amusement of herself and friends; it is not written to stand criticism, nor has the author any pretensions beyond an amateur.

*The Two Brides; or, the French Château and the English Home.* By F. Baldwin. (J. Blackwood.)

—In these days we suppose it would be an infringement on the "rights of women" to enact regulations to restrain young women from printing and publishing nonsensical books: it would be better for the public and much better for the young women themselves if it could be done. If friends are partial and admiring, surely a stern jury of discreet matrons might be collected, whose verdict might keep down the publication of the arrant nonsense and sentimentality in which so many young women indulge themselves by writing and publishing to the world. 'The Two Brides' is nonsense, unadulterated by the smallest gleam of common sense. It professes to be an historical novel, the scene is laid partly in France partly in England. Henri IV. and Queen Elizabeth are both obliging enough to perform for the occasion. King Henry goes through a battle, in a gorgeous array of steel armour inlaid with gold, diamond carcanet, snowy plumes, and a trailing crimson mantle of the richest Genoa velvet "powdered with ermine." Queen Elizabeth gives a fancy ball, at which she wears the most transcendent fine clothes. The whole book is a record of fancy dresses; every time any of the heroines or their friends enter a room, they have their dress catalogued, as well as their emotions. There is not an attempt at getting up any historical gloss of likelihood; if there had been any traces of research, or even of a moderate amount of painstaking, we might have counted it in mitigation of judgment. But the book is written as idly as possible; the young lady has not even been at the pains to guard against mistakes which even she could not have committed in ignorance; as when she makes an Irish widow, in the days of Elizabeth, talk of "earning half-a-crown by charging," and keeping it "in an old tea-caddy."

## OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*Philadelphia; or, the Claims of Humanity. A Plea for Social and Religious Reform.* By T. F. Barham, M.B. (Chapman & Hall.)—A book written in so kindly a spirit can meet with no other than a kindly welcome. The writer believes in that which he terms "the supremacy of religious and moral principle," and proceeds in his own way to the application of a peculiar doctrine. He pleads with much earnestness and some eloquence for the brotherly union of mankind, the brotherly distribution of work, the brotherly enjoyment of freedom, brotherly charity among nations, brotherly love between sects. All this is amiable, and, still better, undeniable; but it is impossible not to perceive that Mr. Barham, like Robert Pemberton, has more love for than knowledge of his species. The

moral of his book is, "Let us all be good, and we shall all be happy." Possibly so; but how to attain the end? We will give one or two illustrations of Mr. Barham's proposals, which, we think, will satisfy even the curious reader:—Instead of grand dinners, prepared by two or three cooks, with silver, china, and fine linen, he commends the rich to a labourer's luxury, "sufficient to sustain a strong and useful man." The argument may be sound, but is not Mr. Barham beginning at the wrong end? Again, though reluctantly acquiescing in the modern prejudice in favour of clothing, he boldly advocates the fashions of Adam's paradise. Why, he asks, should we be shocked to hear of "naked savages"? Why, indeed? but, if so, why should Mr. Barham counsel the European Continent to imitate the Pacific Islands? In Iceland, he says, travellers are bathed by young ladies; in Assyria, maidens dip themselves publicly into rivers without a blush: on the Volga they do likewise; on the Andes, half-Spanish ladies make similar exhibitions of their beauty—or ugliness. Who, moreover, has not heard of the Bornean and Pelew barbarians? Nothing, thinks Mr. Barham, would be more noble than that the youth of England should be as Pelew Islanders are, and decorate every sea-fringe at a watering-place with such groups as travellers gaze at in the rivulets of Chaldaea. When we read this, we are surprised to discover that Mr. Barham has actually a catalogue of "reforms" which "are not to be expected." However, though he has made no special contribution to the debate of our days on social science, his volume contains some original views, is pleasantly written, and may be pronounced uniformly readable.

*Post-Office Directory of Westmoreland, Cumberland, Northumberland, and Durham; with Maps engraved expressly for the work, and corrected to the time of publication.* (Kelly & Co.)—We have more than once had occasion to speak of the series of Directories of which the present volume is one. The praise we have awarded to the former volumes may be also given to this. What Murray's Handbooks are to the general, these Directories are to the commercial, traveller especially. There is no information which the latter can fairly expect to find in such a work, which he may not discover by examining the Directory. Residents within the respective districts to which each Directory has reference, may now have at their fingers' ends a *résumé* of the history, capabilities, and possibilities of the district, and a list of nearly every individual living within its boundaries, and a notification of the callings or professions of nearly every individual. These books are not only of great utility now, but they will form valuable books of reference, hereafter. Their possessors will hardly need to be reminded that they are works worth preserving on library-shelves. For such preservation many a writer yet unborn will have to be profoundly grateful,—for he will be saved a world of trouble which in person, or by deputy (which saves him little or nothing), he has now to meet and endure.

*Songs of Early Spring.* By Rowland Brown. (Kent & Co.)—'Early Spring' is meant to symbolize the beginning of singing-time. A sonneteer has said,

Earth by man's distress worn grey and sore,  
Hath naught more ancient than the new-born Year,  
New hopes, new lives, new blossoms promising.

And here, by way of reminder that the rhyme is not all untrue, comes the artless old preface—telling how this early singer "would and would not"—has hopes, aspirations, but duties which prevent his taking up the minstrel-craft, save as a pursuit and pleasure for "over-hours," and thus, which have hindered his attaining that perfection in music and in meaning, which singers must have to secure real hearers.—If Mr. Brown's book had only such merit as attaches itself to this for-ever-old prelude, it might have been justifiably dismissed—to the company of its predecessors—with the gruff after-dinner grace of the clergyman at sea—"Had enough!"—But our author has some right to sing because he possesses musical instincts. These we can prove by eight lines, in a metre certain to betray any versifier who counts syllables on his fingers in place of obeying his instincts,—the metre of 'Robin Adair':—



Bird of the sunny Spring,  
Oh! thou art heralding  
Moments that soon will bring  
Roses loved well.  
Violets and cowslips bow,  
Blue-bells and fern leaves grow,  
Where a short while ago  
Icicles fell.

Here are eight lines more, to show that Mr. Brown's music does not depend on one tune.

Thank Heaven! the rain is coming down again,  
For which the lovely flowers and budding trees  
Have thirsted long, and sought till now in vain,  
Languidly swaying in the passing breeze;  
But now the wind blows softly from the west;  
Our supplications have to God arisen,  
Our prayers, with gracious answers, have been blest—  
The gentle rain is coming down from Heaven.

From both the extracts given, persons skilled in reading will be prepared to expect tunelessness rather than depth from Mr. Brown. Nor have we met anything in the volume contradictory of such a character. Besides warblings about bird, brook, and meadow, we have scriptural sonnets, love-poems.—'The Eve of Death,' in which is performed the exercise of imitating the Laureate's 'May Queen,' now apparently as indispensable a step in every man's poetical career as the translation of an ode by Horace used to be—and a patriotic ode or two;—the whole making a pleasant miscellany.

*Shelley: a Biographical Tale*—[Shelley: Biographische Novelle]. By Wilhelm Hamm. (Leipzig, T. Thomas; London, Thimm.)—Considering that, of all the modern poets of Great Britain Shelley is probably the one most frequently quoted and most zealously imitated, the English reader will be not a little surprised by Herr Hamm's assertion that, in Percy Bysshe's own fatherland, it is almost reckoned good taste (*gehört es fast zum guten Ton*) not to know him at all. A Briton's ignorance of his most illustrious countrymen seems to Herr Hamm natural enough, but he is clearly annoyed at the circumstance that the Germans, who showed themselves such ready consumers of British produce, in the cases of Shakespeare and Scott, are lamentably ignorant on the subject of Shelley. With the laudable intention of dissipating the intellectual fog that gives rise to his complaint, he turns the life and death of Shelley into a moderately-sized novel.

*Brie; or, Little by Little: a Tale of Roslyn School.* By F. W. Farrar. (Edinburgh, A. & C. Black.)—The story narrated by Mr. Farrar is a hearty and healthy one. It is about boyhood and school-days, and has a tone of intense truthfulness. Very like 'Tom Brown's School-days' in spirit, it differs from it in plan and, to some degree, in purpose. Now that holiday-time is coming this prose epic of youthful adventures and vicissitudes at the imaginary Roslyn, which is typical of many a real modern cloister, may be recommended as a book to be read by the young with a wholesome relish.

*The Child of Prayer: a Father's Memorial to the Rev. Dudley A. Syng, A.M.* By the Rev. Stephen H. Syng, D.D. (The London Book Society.)—This is a tribute of love and tenderness from a clergyman to his deceased son, and, we dare say, possesses family and local interest. It was not necessary to cast it upon a wider field.

*Der Schwätzer; or, the Prattler. An Amusing Introduction to the German Language. On the Plan of 'Le Babillard.'* With Sixteen Engravings. (Griffith & Farran.)—This introduction to German is founded on such a plan as to attempt the speedy learning of German. There are lists of phrases and sentences, numbers, the names of all ordinary objects, &c., which are reproduced in a tale without the English, so that the little learner must tax his memory in every progressive reading-lesson. The volume is got up substantially, the paper, type and binding being all we could wish; to say nothing of the engravings, which will, without doubt, be highly attractive to the young linguist.

*Tales and Adventures.* By J. G. F. (Saunders & Otley.)—We are at a loss to discover in which of the seven ages these tales are intended to be read. Scarcely in that of the schoolboy, to whom they would be somewhat mystical; and soberly, not in that of the lover, in whom they would but encourage romance and adventure. What will Dame

Propriety say to a lady and gentleman, personally unknown to each other, who meet by chance in a steamer going from Fleetwood to Man, and so far improve the shining hour as to gather honeyed words and hymeneal promises from each other during the short passage: thus proving the truth of the meeting of extremes, for Mona yields to an Unmanly bridegroom, and Dermot wins a Manly bride, by which we see that "Dermot Darling" has no sympathy with the Roman who stood "as if a man were author of himself, and knew no other kin." However, the Tales are amusing, poetical, and abound in imaginative power. They may be read with interest by young people (if there be any such left).

*Old Gingerbread and the Schoolboys.* By the Author of 'Uncle Jack the Fault-killer,' with Four Coloured Illustrations. (Smith, Elder & Co.)—We have here another pretty little book by the Author of 'Uncle Jack,' which increases the favourable opinion we have previously formed of this writer's powers as a maker of children's books. The story of 'Old Gingerbread' is pure and healthful in tone, and breathes the spirit of religion.

*Rhymes for Little Ones.* By the Author of 'The Servants' Hall.' (Smith, Elder & Co.)—We shall not feel that our allegiance to the old poetry is endangered by the appearance of these new rhymes, which are harsh and laboured. Children like something that jingles musically; they are caught by the sound before they can understand the sense. The illustrations, too, appear to have had an ante-diluvian origin.

*The Children's Picture-Book of English History.* Illustrated with Fifty Engravings. (Bell & Daldy.)—This substantial looking history for children is brought down to the present time; not even forgetting to record the laying of the Atlantic cable. Of course it does not tell us that for the present the cable is unserviceable, and this veracious volume will carry into the nursery statements curious to the breakfast-table. The style is easy, the engravings are passably good, and the type is excellent; indeed, we should not be particularly surprised to see grandmamma herself take a fancy to such clear, large print. The book numbers nearly 300 pages, so that any deficiency in quality is at least made up by quantity.

*Sussex Archaeological Collections, relating to the History and Antiquities of the County.* Published by the Sussex Archaeological Society. Vol. X. (J. R. Smith.)—The volume which the Sussex Archaeological Society has just issued fully maintains the claims for excellence which we recognized last year. With good printing and paper, and numerous illustrations in various, but well-assigned, processes, the book becomes a perfect luxury. The first portion of the volume is devoted to an interesting series of letters belonging to the Campions, and preserved in their venerable mansion of Danny, the first of which is dated 1633, and addressed by a son to Sir William Campion. Others, from Sir William himself, dated 1646, show him in communication both with Charles and the Commonwealth also; but his adherence was firm to the Royal cause. He was subsequently killed in a sally from Colchester in 1648; and George Goring, the Earl of Norwich, at that period the possessor of Danny, wrote a letter to announce the event to his widow. Mr. Courthope, who afterwards possessed the mansion, was in constant correspondence with Ray, the naturalist; and many letters of considerable interest from him, dated from 1658 to 1673, are given at length. An original paper, on 'Smuggling in Sussex,' by William Durrant Cooper, F.S.A., occupies several pages, and exhibits many curious incidental illustrations on the state of commerce in ancient times. The Rev. Mr. Edward Turner contributes an elaborate notice of Sele Priory, and the Carmelite Friars at Shoreham. A curious Roll, of a Subsidy levied by Henry the Fourth in 1411–1412, transcribed by Mr. Herbert Noyes, jun., affords some very singular figure statements, and an interesting list of landed possessions. An excellent architectural account of the mansions of Wakehurst Place, Slaugham Manor House, and Gravetye, by Mr. Blaauw, accompanied with antiquarian illustrations, insures a welcome variety to the general mass of literary and documentary ma-

terials which are too extensive for particularization. One of the most spirited contributions to the volume is Mr. Gough Nichols's account of the Progress of King Edward the Sixth in Sussex. This, his only visit to the county, occurred in 1552. His sojourn at Petworth, Cowdray, and Hainaker, is minutely described; and the volume concludes with a series of notes and queries pertaining to Sussex subjects.

Upon Indian subjects we have—*Government in its Relations with Education and Christianity in India.* By the Rev. George Percy Badger. (Smith, Elder & Co.)—A *Memorandum for Reorganising the Indian Army: with Explanatory Remarks.* By Colonel A. H. S. Boileau. (Smith, Elder & Co.)—*An Address to the Proprietors of East India Stock.* By Colonel Everest, F.R.S. (Calder); and a *Report, &c., of proceedings at the Fifth Ordinary General Meeting of the Sindh Railway and India Steam Flotilla Company.* (Allen & Co.)—M. de Montalembert's celebrated essay *A Debate on India* [*Un Débat sur l'Inde*], (Jeffs), is, as every one knows, less Indian than English, and less English than French in its application. Two separate English translations have appeared.—Colonial topics are treated in *Railways at the Cape of Good Hope*, a report of the Cape Town Railway and Dock Company, and *The New Zealand Handbook; or, Emigrant's Bradshaw.* (Stanford.)—In the interest of Texas three publications come to us from the same active pen: *Texas, Her Resources and Her Public Men*, a volume full of special interest. (Tribner).—*A Lecture on Texas.* (Philadelphia, Croset).—*The Cultivation of Cotton in Texas*, a lecture, (King & Co.), by J. D. Cordova, who has also published an elaborate Texan map. In the world of political controversy appear two pamphlets: *The War of Parties; or, England and the Two Factions*, by "Another Junius," (Jordan).—*The Politics and Political Economy of Weak Governments*, by F. C. (Hardwicke).—*The Double Doom of the Poor Debtor* is an appeal for Whitecross Street Prison, by its Governor, Captain Hicks. (Richardson).—Of a biographical tenor are: *Brief Memorials of the Rev. Walter Scott*, being addresses and sermons. (Bradford, Dale & Co.),—and *Memorial of the late J. M. Hogg Newliston.* By the Rev. J. C. Burns. (Edinburgh, MacLaren).

#### MEDICAL BOOKS.

*The Cause of the Coagulation of the Blood.* By B. W. Richardson, M.D. (Churchill.)—This essay obtained the Astley Cooper prize for 1856. It is an elaborate investigation of the remarkable phenomenon of the coagulation of the blood. Various causes had been assigned for this obvious fact, but no satisfactory explanation had been given of it up to the time of the publication of this essay. Dr. Richardson has come to the conclusion, that this phenomenon is due to the loss of ammonia by the blood when exposed to the air. He has shown by an elaborate series of experiments that ammonia is present in the blood when in the body, and that the blood does not coagulate till it has lost this constituent. The explanation seems a sufficient one, and Dr. Richardson has at least the merit of giving a consistent theory of this remarkable occurrence. The only doubt that can be thrown over the theory is the possibility of the insufficiency of the chemical tests by which Dr. Richardson supposes he has detected the presence of ammonia. His experiments, however, are before the world, and it remains for those interested in the subject to submit them to more rigid examination.

*A Dictionary of Practical Medicine (Concluding Part).* By James Copland, M.D. (Longman & Co.)—It is not often that a man is spared to complete so gigantic an undertaking as this laborious Dictionary of Medicine by Dr. Copland. It is not a mere explanation of terms, but a complete system of medicine arranged in an alphabetical manner. Each article is a treatise on the subject, and contains at the end an almost exhaustive bibliography of works treating on the disease described. Well may the author be thankful for "a strong and a sound constitution," requiring "much less loss of time in the restoration of the powers of nature in sleep than is generally required," when he looks back upon the hours of labour this great work must have required. The present part not only contains



a number of articles in V. and W., one of which alone occupies nearly 150 pages, but it embraces a classified list of Contents, and a most copious and valuable Index. If one could have dared to have asked anything more in such a work, it would have been a classified Bibliography separate from the text. Such a work is much wanted, and Dr. Copland is the best man alive to do it. If it were possible for such a man to be inactive, we could now wish that he should enjoy a dignified repose, and live to reap the reward of this noble contribution to the literature of his profession.

*The Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology.* Parts XLIX. and L. Edited by R. B. Todd, M.D. (Longman & Co.)—Here is another great work drawing to a close. It differs, however, from the Dictionary of Dr. Copland, in that it is the labour of many hands. The publishers promise that the last and concluding part, containing a classified Table of Contents and a copious Index, shall be published immediately.

*An Essay on Physiological Psychology.* By Robert Dunn. (Churchill).—This work has already appeared in the form of papers in the *Journal of Psychological Medicine*. It treats on a subject which has of late received great attention from some of the ablest writers on Physiology. Mr. Dunn shows himself thoroughly master of the recent researches of physiologists in relation to psychology; and as the production of a man practically engaged in the application of the principles of physiology to the treatment of disease, it cannot fail to be of interest to medical men, and especially those who devote themselves to the treatment of diseases of the mind.

*Rheumatism, its Nature, Causes and Cure; Gout, its Nature, Causes, Cure, and Prevention.* By James Alexander, M.D. (Churchill).—This is a sensible book on the diseases to which its pages are devoted. The author does not come forward with any new views of the disease. He evidently belongs to the modern school of chemical physicians. We have no doubt the true theory of the causes of rheumatism and gout lies in the explanation of the chemical changes which go on in the food and blood; and without believing that these changes are perfectly understood, we believe that Dr. Alexander and his school are in the right track for making important discoveries. There is one part of Dr. Alexander's work somewhat novel, and that is the treatment of gout by the inhalation of oxygen gas. Theoretically, this treatment, on the assumption that gout arises from a want of oxidation of the tissues, appears to be correct; but neither Dr. Alexander nor any previous writer has brought forward a sufficient number of facts to justify the conclusion, that this plan of treatment is practically available or superior to methods longer in vogue.

*Transactions of the Odontological Society of London.* (Churchill).—The dentists have combined together to form an Odontological Society, and here we have the first result of their combined labours. On looking over the list of papers we find the names of men who are not only eminent in their profession, but distinguished for their scientific attainments. Such men would be an honour to any profession; and we congratulate a Society collected together for the study of so exclusive a subject as diseases of the teeth, on the production of the volume they have just issued. However much the tendency to study and treat special diseases may be regretted as calling off attention from the general causes of all disease, there can be no doubt of the advantage to be derived from attention to special cases, where manual dexterity and mechanical skill are required.

On Medicine and Medical Education. By W. T. Gairdner, M.D. (Edinburgh, Sutherland & Knox; London, Simpkin & Marshall.)—Three introductory addresses on the study of medicine. They are the production of a clear-headed, painstaking physician, and are worthy of perusal by every candidate for medical practice. The sketch of Paracelsus, Brown, and Hahnemann, as three great system-builders in the medical art, should be well pondered by every young practitioner of medicine at the present time. When such a glorious path is open to the medical inquirer as that constituted by the progress of modern science, it is one of the saddest

and most inglorious catastrophes to see him led aside by the miserable conceits of such men as those whom Dr. Gairdner has selected as types of medical error.

*The Unity of Medicine: its Corruptions and Divisions.* (By a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. (Baillière).)—This anonymous work, whilst it contains a good deal of research, and asserts a true principle, is nevertheless exposed to the charge of exaggeration, which must in some measure impair its usefulness. There is no doubt that the division of medical practitioners in this country, more especially in London, into the three grades of physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries has been a great evil. It is also much to be regretted that the new Medical Law has recognized and confirmed these divisions. It is, however, practically only a part of that system of division of labour which is so generally recognized in all branches of our industry, and it is only where it leads to a neglect of what it professes to accomplish that it needs a remedy. If the new Medical Council should be imbued with a feeling of the necessity of rendering the study of medicine a unity, then we may hope to realize some of the advantages so ardently desired by the author of this work.

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**Acknowledged Thing Revealed;** seeing that the subject of Discussion is the *Matter of the Thing Revealed*, That *Thing* which the one party asserts is Revealed, the other as strongly asserts is Not Revealed. Neither considers that the other's errors in making the Deduction from the *Thing Revealed*, but in having a *False Notion* of the *Thing* Revealed, and in having a *False Notion of the Revelation*. And if the occasion of these adverse estimates be examined, it will almost invariably be found to arise out of their *False Notions* of the *Nature and Power* of the Great Architect of the Universe, and of the *Essence and Nature* of the Holy Spirit. When Christians unite on this subject, they are bound to be unanimous respecting The Unity of God; The Proper Persons of action of the Father and the Son; The Nature, Quality, and Attributes of the Holy Spirit; The Nature and Power of the Great Architect of the Universe, and His Existence in His Native Form, or in His Partial Impression to Man; and innumerable other such like Propositions; such as those respecting *Heaven, Repentance, Transfiguration, Resurrection, and the Kingdom of God*. And if these things be there, be, in all cases the Sense of The God, The Lord, The Holy Spirit, The Spirit of Truth, or of the Truth, &c. &c. was absolutely true, and not a Falsehood, and if the Holy Spirit, a Spirit of truth, or of a truth, &c. &c. What pains have we not taken, O ye Christians, of Faith and The Faith, Sin and The Sin, Death and The Death, &c. &c. yes, and what *Urguous* Distinctions therefrom,

[illegible][illegible]

persons is an insupportable Greek Article from this contradiction, those who are not *Scholars*, but *Plain Thinking Men*, have no alternative, but for each man to decide respecting it for himself: In effecting which, I submit that Common Sense requires. That as the *Article* is not *in* the *Form* of *Expression* required by the *Article*, the *Article* is undoubtedly used by *The Deists Article*, all just grounds of Logic require. That the *Article* be regarded, in all cases, as so used, except in those *Forms of Expression* in which the *Article* is not *in* the *Form* of *Expression* required by the *Article*. As I cannot believe that any one will venture to deny the justice of this Position, I will now proceed to examine what has been advanced to prove, That the *First Article*, in certain *Forms of Expression*, is *not* *in* the *Form* of *Expression* required by the *Article*.

Apposition, is not the case. The Greek Article is prefixed to a Participle, as, "*He that loves his country let him be honored*," the Article is used *Indefinitely*; *He*, expressing here no *name* *Definite* or *Indefinite*, but only a *Person* or *Person* or *Persons*. The Article cannot be *The Definite Article*. If this is just reasoning. Who that is not a Scholar will not contend? That the English translation is, "*Let him be honored, who loves his country*." The man that loves his country let him be honored, the Article is used to convey a precisely similar Sense. Verily, Who that is not a Scholar will not admit? That when the Greek Article is used in the unconnected declaration, *The Ass is stupid*, in *The Ass in Fables*, and not, *The Ass* as Species. Yes, Who that is not a Scholar will not admit? That when the Greek Article is prefixed to a Participle, it cannot be Rendered *He*, as the Sense that is in such case intended to be conveyed, has relation alone to the *Person* or *Persons* of the Participle, and not to the *Species* or *Persons* no relation to the *Definition* of the *Person*. Such use of the Article therefore does prove, That the Greek Article does not in all cases denote a *Person* or *Persons*, but only a *Person* or *Persons*. Define, alone, *The Individuality* of the *Species*, *Genus*, or *Class* of *Character*; but it does not prove, That the Greek Article is even

need to signify his presence. "That when a *Noun* is joined by a *Preposition*, the *Great Article* is commonly Omitted." It is a Proposition which in the opinion of *Plain Thinking Men* does not admit of defence. Seeing words are always joined by *Prepositions*, it is not more than by one and the same *Name of words*; any variation of the one necessarily entails a variation of the other. An assertion, that the *Great Article* is not necessary to the sense of a *Phrase*, does not affect the sense, does, in the opinion of *Plain Thinking Men*, contain in itself its own refutation: a *Class* of words is not a *Phrase*, and a *Phrase* is not a *Class* of words; but extending to every *Prescription* of this kind that is not of *Insurable Occurrences*. Hence the value of *Prescriptions* such as those of *Bishop Middleton's Prescriptions* that are stated to be *of Insurable Occurrences*, is not to be estimated, either on the one side, this *Plain Thinking Man* will find one *Sentence of a Proposition*, in which the *Great Article* is used for any other object than to signify his presence. It is not to be justly estimated, either in this, or in its *Superior* of *Quotation*.

And what other *Form of Expression* is there in which the Greek Article is asserted to signify *Indefiniteness*. Should the Article in any passage appear to an Individual to be so used, he has no sanction for rejecting the Estimate. That the Greek Article is not used in this manner, is clearly, to that Particular Passage, *He cannot perceive* that it is used to convey a *Definite* Sense. It requires particular Note, That *The Nature and Power of the Article* cannot be affected by the authority of any Language. The *Indefiniteness* of the Article in the Greek Language is used in that Passage, is found to correspond with a like Sense of the Article in all other Passages of a like *Form of Expression*; otherwise, One and the same *Form of Expression* would express more than one thing, which is a contradiction.

than one and the same *Gods* to *Zeus*, which is all impiety. And if the Greek Article is to be regarded by the Theologians of *Aristotle* in all cases except those which I have mentioned, then himself is the *God* of the *Hebrews*, and he himself is the *God* of the *Hebrews*; let me earnestly entreat every such Man himself personally to ascertain, and in all sincerity to Note, what *Gross Errors* are now promulgated by the Authorized English Version of the Holy Scriptures. I pray God to grant, That each *Thinking Man*, rejecting the Biases of Education, and Party, and Sect, may, as he loves Truth, as his eternal Assessor, for his own personal edification, and purity of his moral Character, occasionally reflect, That, on his personal decision respecting the *Nature* and *Power* of the *Greek Article* now raised, beyond all doubt, his own personal knowledge of the Things of God, as well as that know-

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

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(Copy.)  
*To the Members of the Anglo-Biblical Institute.*  
 DEAR BROTHER MEMBERS.—In presenting to you the following observations on *The Nature and Power of the Greek Article*, permit me in the first place to request your consideration of the present state of the Christian World.  
 No one will deny the declaration, That on no one Theological Position, there is Unity of opinion; and no one can justly attribute this want of Union, to *Erroneous Deductions* from *As*

ledge of them, which by the Blessing and Grace of God, he may be permitted to impart to others.

I remain, Dear Brother Members,  
Ever truly yours,  
HERMAN HEINFETTER.  
17, Fenchurch Street,  
December 7th, 1856.

#### SCIENCE IN COURTS OF LAW.

Manchester, December.

I have long wished to tell the public that science has not a fair standing in our courts of law. May I do so with your aid? A lawyer I suppose to be a man who understands law, and part of whose business it is to show the relation of individual facts and actions to the law of the country. A scientific man, or scientist,† is one who understands natural laws and whose chief province it is to show the relation of special facts to the laws of nature. But although this definition of a lawyer may be very appropriate for a Judge on the bench or a counsel in consultation, it does not suit the pleading barrister, whose business it often is, to show that some special act comes under some special law, and not under the other law advocated by his opponent. His interest is not in absolute truth, but in gaining his cause. Now I think it desirable that there should not be a class of scientific men corresponding to the barrister, whose business it shall be to prove that some special fact comes under a particular law of nature, which will be more favourable to his client. The laws of men may be occasionally bent with advantage, but it is a reprobat only who trifles with the divine truths which science leads us to understand. I know that it may be said, that in the one case the law is only an expression of our mode of viewing natural truth, and in the other it is an expression of our mode of viewing social truth, and that the same authority, therefore, exists with both. But, not to discuss it, most persons will believe that the truths of experimental science must for a long time be more exactly known than many of the complicated phenomena of social life, which has frequently to deal with an order of truth much higher, more complex, and less scrutable.

Men can be justified in disputing only when there is a difficulty in obtaining the truth, and the methods of obtaining it are frequently perfectly exact in science. It is clearly the case therefore that the scientists stand in a position different from the barrister, who will be found to despise them after he has made them twist their expressions to suit private purposes, instinctively allowing that he and they stand on different ground. The scientists are honourable men from habit of mind, but it is true that, like other classes, they are imperfect, although even the best may suffer when subjected to the examination of an unscrupulous barrister, where the Court gives no opportunity of reply. Science has no standing in a court of law, except as a witness. The student and exponent of the laws of nature is put into the same position, as the wretched boy who tells of some miserable companion who stole a turnip valued at less than a penny. The law itself, a dread law, which cannot be altered or even modified, is brought into court in exactly the same position as the wretched fact of the stealing of the turnip. The Court does not believe it until it is proved by a person subjected to cross-examination, in order to induce him to make a mistake. If he should blunder in expression and raise a laugh against himself, the great law falls to the ground. The barrister by his wit has put nature to shame. A glorious position for a barrister! I can imagine a wretched street boy putting majesty itself to shame for an instant, but not to the honour of the imp.

Scientists, like other witnesses, are sworn to speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. If they dare to speak the whole, they are silenced. Barristers know best what suits their case. The truth is therefore given partially, lest the whole should rather cover than make clear the point aimed at. It would be presumptuous in the scientist to rise up and give an opinion on law before a Court, but is it not presumptuous in the barrister to give his opinion as to what shall be considered the whole truth of a scientific question?

† Scientific men are so little a part of the community, that they have no name even. I propose *scientists* as a convenient word needed in nearly all Europe.

Yet this happens in cases where the whole importance of the suit rests on the words of the student of science, and where the work of the barrister is a mere formality. The legal licence of a barrister and the social dignity of a well-earned judgeship can give no right to overrule the words, and in them the opinions, of a class of men whose mode of reasoning, after all, is somewhat foreign to them. Still I do not blame the barristers: their position decides their mode of action.

The conclusions of the representatives of science must be respected even in a court. It is a legal fiction that a barrister can understand all things; it is well to remember that it is a fiction. To make scientific men respected, they must not take part as a matter of course with him who pays first or best; but to enable them to stand independently in court, a change of custom there is necessary.

In all scientific law-inquiries there are many points fully ascertained and undeniable. Passing them, a point is reached where opinion begins, demonstration not being found. Now the present method makes no distinction, at least attempts are often made successfully to make no distinction, between the points well ascertained and those which are questionable. The opinion of a man often weighs as much as a law established by generations of scientific men. I would propose to distinguish these points clearly in the court. It is sometimes done by long, expensive and ruinous reasoning, by such groupings of the lawyers as occur when you have to lead a stranger in the dark over a road which you have travelled daily for years. A few minutes' discussion or conversation of the scientific witnesses would relieve the question of a great amount of well-ascertained matter. These witnesses would send in their report, and the Bar would then begin its legitimate labours. I believe that the report can never be made well, except in writing. Scientists, accustomed to weigh well their words quietly at home, may not be able to express themselves with equal deliberative accuracy *ad hoc* in the bustle of a court.

To obtain a purer representation of science there are three points which seem desirable:—1. That the opinions on the scientific points shall be given in writing. 2. That acknowledged scientific facts and the opinions of individuals shall be stated distinctly under these heads. 3. That if the opinions need explanation, the Judge, or one who is not a partisan, shall elicit it before the cross-questioning of the Bar commences.

The first sets aside, in great measure at least, the verbal equivocations and undignified truth-extraction which sometimes make our Courts so amusing, to the disgrace both of law and science. The second defines where the point of disputation shall begin. It will at once remove a great deal of that confusion so often thrown on a subject by its partisans. The third claims for science an independent position in a court, one at least not under the barrister, and one which must be respected by the Judge. The examination-in-chief is by this plan made into a deliberate and carefully prepared statement, which brings out all the talent of the scientists who prepare it, instead of a very partial explanation drawn out with difficulty by a barrister who may not know how to extract it, and who never knows how much he has left concealed. Cross-questioning by the barrister would be necessary, but the whole subject would be in such order that he would know at once what to ask, and the conclusion would soon be reached.

It seems to me that it would be well that each party should appoint a scientific adviser, and that the Court should do the same, in order to overrule any unjust arrangements. This establishes, in fact, a scientific tribunal to prepare questions for Courts of law; but it takes no power from the present staff: it only relieves them of a portion of their duty for which they are not well fitted, and for which they have not been educated.

Many other points occur to me, but I am desirous of beginning the subject with very general remarks. If it be taken up by lawyers they will probably be best able to sift it, and to find out a method which will best suit the peculiar capacities of themselves and those who are engaged in science. I brought the subject before the Social Association at its

first meeting at Birmingham, and the few remarks there made are published in the *Transactions*. I have also spoken to scientific men and lawyers, and all agree that there is much evil in the present method.

Science is not yet fully recognized as a power in the State as well as a great social reformer. If we believed in it as we ought, we would not grudge an expense equal to the support of fifty men-of-war for its promotion, and the world would bless us for our devotion.

R. ANGUS SMITH.

#### THE XICACQUE INDIANS OF HONDURAS.

Paris, Dec. 2.

AMONGST the uncivilized Indian tribes of Central America, who maintain their isolation, without, however, sustaining a hostile position towards the Spaniards, the Xicacques of Honduras are conspicuous.

They are mentioned in the earliest chronicles, but are generally referred to as mild in character, although thoroughly independent in their conduct, and politic rather than warlike. Mr. Amory Edwards, late acting agent of the Inter-oceanic Railway in Honduras, has furnished me with the following account of these Indians, together with a brief vocabulary of their language now for the first time published. He says:—

"The Xicacques are principally found in the department of Yoro, where they number about 5,000 of both sexes. About 1,000 are also found in the department of Santa-Barbara, where they are comparatively civilized, and follow industrial pursuits. Four hundred of these live on the head waters of the river Choloma, and the remainder are scattered amongst the mountains, on the western side of the Plain of Sula. In the department of Yoro, they are spread over the country from the river Sulaco to the Bay of Honduras, in communities numbering from 70 to 100 individuals, each of which has a captain or chief, selected from its own number, generally for life. These head men are their mediums for all negotiations with the whites. I was given to understand that there exists some paramount chief, who resides somewhere near the coast, but I could obtain no particulars concerning him. The Xicacques clothe themselves with a kind of *tappa* or fabric made from the bark of the *ule*, or caoutchouc tree, which is exceedingly fine and pliable. A strip of this, about 8 feet long and 4 feet broad, is worn over the shoulders, the head passing through a hole in the centre, as in a Mexican *poncho*. This is confined at the waist by a cord, generally a piece of vine, and constitutes their only clothing. They depend for food principally on wild fruits and animals found in the forests; but those who have had intercourse with the whites cultivate a little maize and a few plantains. Their huts are very rude structures, and are frequently abandoned on account of sickness, death, evil omens, or slighter causes. It is common with the whites to summon a captain and agree with him, that for a bullock his people shall clear off and plant a certain piece of ground. In such cases the work is always faithfully performed, and the bullock driven off to their settlement, when all the people are called together, and the animal is killed and incontinently eaten up!

"I have been able to procure the following brief vocabulary of their language:—

English.	Xicacque.	English.	Xicacque.
man .....	jomé	stone .....	pal
boy .....	pitché	tree .....	cou
woman .....	kep	eye .....	non
girl .....	kep-chunguay	nose .....	meguin
head .....	laipnoo	mouth .....	muypanté
hair .....	see	tooth .....	quir
sun .....	bahapoy	tongue .....	ria
moon .....	mumuy	ear .....	fora
fire .....	inquameos	foot .....	san
snake .....	jugnalan	beard .....	cur
bird .....	cocooy	light hair .....	chil
cock .....	castré	day .....	hubac
black .....	tiltique	year .....	chequereso
white .....	sae	one .....	pant
house .....	chef	two .....	matia
maize .....	nop	three .....	conlis
salt .....	sorin	four .....	urupan
egg .....	pohay	five .....	caasapani
deer .....	maasé	six .....	ouspe
hog .....	quinquin	seven .....	cusanipnen
dog .....	soyo	eight .....	camayaren
hand .....	mor	ten .....	camaspas
night .....	apura	twenty .....	chinsupant.
water .....	sur		



Such is the account of Mr. Edwards. I do not discover any relationship between the Xicque language and any other known aboriginal language of Honduras. The only word which I recognize is *masat*, evidently the Mexican *masal*, deer. I do not, however, deduce from this any relationship between the Xicques and Mexicans. The word is probably an accidental intrusion. I suspect that when we shall obtain a vocabulary of the Poyas or Payas language it will be found to be very similar to that of the Xicques, if not identical with it. The habits of these two families are certainly much the same. Respectfully,

E. G. SQUIER.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

Sir John F. W. Herschel wishes to correct an omission in his 'Outlines of Astronomy,' page 337, which does injustice to a very able astronomer and worthy gentleman. Speaking of the discovery of Hyperion, the eighth moon of Saturn, Sir John had assigned the discovery to Mr. Dawes and Prof. Bond, without naming Mr. Lassell, in whose observatory and by whose labours, conjointly with those of Mr. Dawes, this beautiful discovery was made. Unhappily, the omission stands in the new issue of the 'Outlines,' and we very willingly aid Sir John in his desire to make the true facts known to the public.

Shall we have a Burns Festival in London? The 'Caledonians' will, of course, sing Auld Lang Syne; literary and convivial bodies, such as 'Our Club,' may possibly dine on the day; the Crystal Palace will have its reception and recitation; and a score of corporations—literary or patriotic—may gather specially about the Scottish Lion, and drink themselves into good fellowship with Tam o' Shanter, or rise into holy rapture at the thought of Highland Mary. That the 'Caledonians' will be at their mahogany, the following letter tells us:—

"8, Davies Street, Berkeley Square, Dec. 4.

"Seeing one or two laudable paragraphs in the *Athenæum* relating to the approaching centenary of the birth of Robert Burns, I beg to inform you that the 'Caledonian Society of London' intend holding, as usual, their anniversary festival in the London Tavern, on the poet's natal day. The forthcoming occasion will certainly be a most interesting one; and the directors regret exceedingly that the room is not capable of containing more than the members of the Society and their friends. They intend, however, to invite several of their countrymen and others who are admirers of the manly worth, honest independence, and mighty genius of their country's poet. I am, &c.,

"ROBERT HEPBURN."

—So far so good. But why not seek a larger room if a larger room be needed? The form of miscellaneous and independent celebrations, though testifying to the great vitality of Burns, is probably not the wisest or the best. Let us remember that this is the first century of the poet: that what we do now will probably be a law to our great grandchildren, A.D. 1960; and let our lips have the large utterance of fidelity and admiration that is in our hearts.

The very best news for boys and girls!—Prof. Faraday will give, during the Christmas holidays, six lectures 'On Metalline Properties' (adapted to a juvenile auditory), at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street. These discourses will be followed by twelve lectures 'On Fossil Mammals,' by Prof. R. Owen; twelve lectures 'On the Force of Gravity,' by Prof. J. Tyndall; and nine lectures 'On Organic Chemistry,' by Dr. W. A. Miller. Mr. J. P. Lacaita will also commence a course of ten lectures on a literary subject, on Saturday, April the 2nd, at the same Institution.

Mr. George Harrison of the Leeds Young Men's Christian Institute and Mr. George Best of the Leeds Mechanics' Institute, who distinguished themselves at the examinations held by the Society of Arts in May last, and who had been nominated by the Council to compete for Supernumerary Surveyorships of Taxes, have obtained appointments, being placed first and second respectively in the list of successful candidates. There were on this occasion five vacancies and fifteen selected competitors, two

nominations having been placed by Lord Derby at the disposal of the Council of the Society of Arts.

We copy the following from a Cambridge paper:—"The Vice Chancellor announces that the representatives of the late Rev. Richard Sheepshanks, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, have offered to give ten thousand pounds stock, three per cent. consols., for the promotion of the science of astronomy in the University. The terms on which this munificent gift is offered for the acceptance of the University, as stated in a letter to the Vice Chancellor from the Astronomer Royal, are, with regard to one-sixth part of the stock, that the principal shall not be touched, but the entire proceeds be applied to the maintenance of an exhibition to be called 'The Sheepshanks Astronomical Exhibition;' which exhibition shall be given to that undergraduate of the University of Cambridge, elected by the Master and Seniors of Trinity College, who shall be found best versed in astronomy, theoretical and practical; the person so elected, if not a student of Trinity College, to become one; and retain the exhibition for three years, on condition that he shall keep, by residence, every University term of that time; except on permission of non-residence. With regard to the remaining five-sixths part of the above-mentioned stock, the principal in nowise to be touched; but the proceeds to be applied to the making the best possible observations and calculations for advancing the science of astronomy, or the sciences of terrestrial magnetism and meteorology, or other sciences usually pursued continuously in an observatory; or to the erection of buildings, or procuring of instruments proper for and appropriated to those observations; or to the payment of actual observers and actual computers personally employed on the observations and calculations."—Mr. Sheepshanks devoted his life to astronomy, and it is well that his name should be permanently attached to an institution connected with his own science and his own University. The effect of the gift will no doubt be the promotion of practical astronomy among the younger Cambridge men, and also the promotion of academical education among persons who have become practical astronomers. We cannot but hope that the exhibition will be thrown open to persons who have not yet matriculated, on condition of matriculation in case of success. The 50l. a-year will go a great way towards enabling the successful candidate to maintain himself. Perhaps it would be advisable to apply a second sixth in founding a second exhibition, open to all England, if it should be judged advisable to restrict the first exhibition to those who have already matriculated.

Mr. Cyrus Redding, we hear, has ready for the press a life of his old friend Campbell, the poet, in one volume.

Some gentlemen of the school of reform have established, in close neighbourhood to Regent Street, of course, a Ladies' Reading Room, which is open from ten till five. No dogs or gentlemen are allowed to enter these rooms, except vicariously, in their books or journals. For one guinea per annum, or six shillings per quarter, a lady may be accommodated with a comfortable chair and a copy of the *Times* or *Athenæum*, and relieved from the society of the less attractive and more silent sex. A reference is required from all subscribers. These gentlemen who have opened these rooms seem to have done a sensible and courageous thing, and we hope they will not be frightened from their purpose by sneers at ladies' clubs and bye-laws against tattle.

A note from the Rev. James Graves on a proposed Registry of Historical Portraits needs no introduction:—

"Kilkenny, Dec. 6.

"As you have stamped my suggestion relative to a 'Registry of Historical Portraits,' by your approval, perhaps you will give me space for a few words on Mr. Redgrave's proposal, that five-inch photographs should accompany all contributions. I do not deny that, wherever practicable, photographic registration would be the most truthful and effectual; but I greatly fear that, if insisted on, it would go far to defeat the object in view. I look for contributions to the 'Registry' not so much

from regular investigators, who can afford to set out furnished with the heavy baggage of photographic apparatus, as from the general run of summer tourists, whose more slender impedimenta can barely find room for sketching and memorandum book. A brief, yet comprehensive formula should at once be constructed, and Mr. Redgrave has thrown out many excellent hints for that purpose. Let it not be clogged, however, by too many conditions, as the end in view is not so much to give a full description of the portraits, as to indicate their existence and place of conservation.

"JAMES GRAVES, A.B."

In the 'Companion to the Almanac' which has recently appeared, there is an interesting list of comets, from 11 B.C. to A.D. 500, which is to be continued. The Chinese records have now been well searched; and, by their assistance, several of the early appearances of Halley's comet have been tolerably well identified. As in the following cases:—

11 B.C. Recorded by Dion Cassius and by the Chinese.  
66 A.D. By the Chinese.  
141 A.D. By the Chinese.  
218 A.D. By Dion Cassius and the Chinese.  
295 A.D. By the Chinese.  
373 A.D. By the Chinese.  
451 A.D. By Idatius and the Chinese.

—There is not a single appearance of the comet within the period without its record.

Baron Humboldt has received a communication from the English Consul-General at Tripoli, announcing that every endeavour will be made in accordance with the orders of the English Government to ascertain the fate of Dr. Vogel. In making this circumstance known to Dr. Vogel's family, Baron Humboldt adds, that the King of Prussia, although an invalid, is greatly concerned and interested respecting Dr. Vogel.

The Bavarian order for Art and Science, founded by King Maximilian the Second, and named after him, lost in the course of the year four of its members by death, viz., Joseph von Eichendorf, Christian Rauch, and Johannes Müller, at Berlin, and Friedrich Kreuzer, at Heidelberg. At the proposal of a chapter of the order, King Maximilian has filled up the vacancies by the painter, Moritz von Schwind, at Munich; by the musician, Dr. Moritz Hauptmann, at Leipzig; by the philologist, Dr. Immanuel Becker, at Berlin; and by the physiologist, Professor Bischof, at Munich. The Maximilian Medal, with the prize of 300 ducats, has been awarded to Professor Wöhler, at Göttingen, and Professor Buff, at Giessen.

An international journal for medical science, under the title of 'Clinique Européenne,' will appear in the course of this month, to be published at the same time at Paris, in French, and at Vienna, in German. Doctors Kraus and Pichler, of Vienna, are named as editors, and the first authorities in medical science have promised their co-operation.

All sorts of literary and artistic publications, we hear from Germany, announce the approach of the centenary jubilee of Schiller's birthday. The printing-office of Cotta, the Stuttgart publisher, will give us at last the long-expected critical edition of Schiller's complete works, done upon the plan of the edition of Lessing's works, by Lachman and Maltzahn. A new life of Schiller, by Herr Emil Pallaske, has begun to appear, and another work on the same subject by Johannes Scherr, and illustrated by the first German artists, is announced. Another artistic work is the 'Schiller-Galerie, Charaktere aus Schiller's Werken, gezeichnet von Friederich Pecht und Arthur von Ramberg,' of which the first number has just been published by Herr F. A. Brockhaus, of Leipzig. This work will contain fifty plates in ten numbers, representing the principal characters from Schiller's dramas, together with a portrait of the poet and that of his wife. The letter-press is by one of the illustrators, Herr Friederich Pecht; it accompanies every engraving, and explains the intention of the painter and the way in which he understood the character represented. This first number contains the figures of Hedwig (the wife of Tell), Gessler, Max Piccolomini, Lady Milford, and Louisa Miller. The work is to be completed on the 10th of November, 1859, Schiller's centenary birthday.



At the pulling down of the old Convent of the Carmelites, at Saragossa, gold coins were found of the value of two and four duros a piece. The whole treasure amounted to about 30,000 piastres, it is said; the coins date from the reign of the last Moorish kings.

The sad and wanton destruction of owls and other domestic birds, which has been frequently a subject of complaint in England, seems now to be equally complained of in France. A large landed proprietor in the department of the Seine, who laments the wholesale destruction of these birds, states that he has ascertained by many observations that a family of young tomits devoured 45,000 caterpillars in twenty-one days, the time during which the birds were fed by their parents.

A deputation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and a public meeting at Liverpool, have called attention to one little phase of the decimal question. The object is to enact that corn and dry goods should be sold, not by measure, but by the weight of 100 pounds; and that the Customs duties should be taken on 100 pounds instead of the hundred-weight of 112 pounds. In many parts of the country some progress has been made: corn, potatoes, &c. are sold by weight, though the weights are called bushels or pecks. It was represented to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by Mr. Miller, of the Bank of England, that the 112 pounds, instead of 100, causes five millions of useless figures to be written every year, in nothing but invoices, &c., of bonded tea; and many of these figures are results of useless calculation. If this be true, and Mr. Miller is not an easy man to be put down on such a point, what can be the whole number of figures written down in a year, which might be saved by a complete decimal system of weights, measures, and coinage? Such a calculation serves to give some idea of what the whole number of figures may be which are written down every year in Great Britain. At first, we thought that business might perhaps be represented by two millions of persons writing each one hundred figures a day for three hundred days. But this we had to give up: we could never imagine the useless figures connected with nothing but tea in the Custom houses to be so much as one out of every twelve thousand of all the numbers written. Consequently, sixty thousand million is not nearly enough: two hundred thousand million is nearer the mark. Nor indeed is it unlikely that every soul in the country, man, woman, and child, should write, one with another, twenty figures a day each. Whatever the number may be, we are satisfied that one quarter of them are useless and worse than useless consequences of our non-decimal systems. Fifty thousand millions of useless figures, at least, in every year, in the United Kingdom only! and a million represents the number of beats of the clock in about twelve days and nights.

SIXTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES AND WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS, the Contributions of British Artists, IS NOW OPEN, at the French Gallery, 120, Pall Mall.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. Open from Ten till Five.

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, by HOLMAN HUNT.—The LAST WEEK.—Messrs. J. & R. JENNINGS beg to announce that the EXHIBITION of this important SACRED PICTURE, painted by Holman Hunt, will finally CLOSE on SATURDAY EVENING, December 18. "I think it one of the very noblest works of sacred art ever produced in this or any other age."—*Review of the Admiration Press.* In consequence of the state of the weather, the Picture is being shown by Gaslight.—J. & R. JENNINGS, Printers, 65, Chancery Lane.

LONDON CRYSTAL PALACE, REGENT CIRCUS, OXFORD STREET, and GREAT PORTLAND PLACE.—Now Open, ADMISSION FREE.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—Patron, H.R.H. THE PRINCE CONSORT. THE SPECIAL WONDER OF THE AGE—MOULÉ'S PHOTOGRAPHIC LIGHT—THE RIVAL OF THE SUN. Lectured on, and Experimentally Demonstrated by PORTRAITS.—MR. LITTON ROSS will give his HUMOROUS LECTURE ON THE ERRORS IN POPULAR TASTE with regard to ITALIAN AND ENGLISH SINGING every Evening.—LECTURE ON THE MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF THE ATMOSPHERE, by Mr. J. L. KIRK.—DISSOLVING VIEWS, DIVER, DIVING-BELL, &c. &c.—Great preparations are in progress for CHRISTMAS.

MANAGING DIRECTOR, R. L. LONGBOTTOM, Esq.  
Dr. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, at Tishbourne Street, opposite the Haymarket, (Open Daily, 10 till 4, ladies only). Lectures at Three, Half-past Four, and Eight o'clock, on important and interesting topics in connexion with Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology (vide Programme). Admission, 1s.—Dr. KAHN'S Nine Lectures on the Philosophy of Marriage, &c., sent post free, direct from the Author, on the receipt of twelve stamps.

## SCIENCE

*Geological Map of Scotland, from the most Recent Authorities and Personal Observations.* By James Nicol. The Topography by A. Keith Johnston. With Explanatory Note and Index. (Blackwood & Sons.)

THE history of Geological Maps is nearly the history of geological science itself. The first great practical geologist produced by England was the individual who formed the first complete geological map of the country. Whatever may be the superiority of subsequent maps, that constructed by William Smith, and completed in 1815, was the greatest triumph of unaided research and unfaltering perseverance which has ever seen the light in this form. Smith had explored the whole land, and chiefly on foot, for the purpose of obtaining information for his darling and daring project. He himself was in a great degree the founder of the science in England—the first propounder of the principle of the identification of strata by their characteristic organic remains, and the collector of illustrative fossils; and the topographical results of his researches were embodied in a large map, which would reach from the floor to the ceiling of an ordinary study. This will remain as a lasting testimony of the services of one who was familiarly known as "Stratum Smith." Nor was this all, for "Stratum Smith" constructed local maps and sections; and he presented the writer with a geological sketch-map of Hackness, in Yorkshire, which proved of the greatest service in exploring that picturesque vicinity.

Smith's great map was succeeded and superseded by that of Greenough, who laboured at his task with far superior advantages to his predecessor. The new edition of it in 1840 was a vast improvement, and is even now of some worth. Afterwards, appeared the smaller map of Walker, containing no original research. Now, we have the valuable and carefully arranged map of Knipe, and that of Phillips. Knipe's, though a little behind present knowledge, is a very meritorious performance, and has been well received. We have used it, and found it accurate in some complicated districts. The cheaper and commoner maps seem to have been based chiefly upon it, without acknowledgment, and, therefore, we pay this passing tribute to its unquestionable merits.

When the Ordnance Map of the whole country is completed, and the various portions are geologically coloured, there will be an end to all competition in geological maps upon a large scale. Those geologically coloured portions which we have already tested by field-service are admirably executed, and we may refer more particularly to the delineations of North Wales, which country we have recently walked over, map in hand, with great satisfaction.

For the geological pedestrian, a good general pocket-map is important, in order that he may acquire a complete idea of the country as a whole before he enters upon the examination of particular districts; and should he be wending his way northwards, and crossing the Border, he will find, as nearly as may be, what he wants in Prof. Nicol's Map now before us. It is on the scale of ten miles to an inch,—the proportion to nature being 1:633,600. There cannot, as in the case of England, arise any question of preference between this and other geological maps; for, in fact, this map stands nearly alone. The object has evidently been to comprise topography and geology in one map; so that the ordinary traveller may have the addition of geology without detriment to the topography. This object has, we think, been attained, although we must add, that the eyesight of the

purchaser should be good. A magnifying glass will be occasionally desirable in searching the map for smaller places. We do not mention this as a fault, because the minuteness is unavoidable according to the scale; and the only remedy will be to have enlarged maps of separate districts or counties. A good amount of local geology is compressed in what we may term small coast-notes; as, for example, on the coast towards Elgin, we read the following note:—

Elgin { Devonian.  
Telerepton (Reptiles).  
Lias, Plants, Shells, Saurians.

In truth, every portion of the space is usefully employed. An hour's careful study of this map will put the inquirer in possession of a general idea of the geology of Scotland,—and should he inspect it in connexion with Prof. Nicol's 'Guide to the Geology of Scotland,' he will obtain as much satisfaction as is at present possible for readers who are not workers in the field.

In his explanatory note the Professor speaks modestly of his work. We can, however, without difficulty estimate the amount of labour demanded for the collection of the requisite information; and although the *Transactions* and *Journals* of different Societies have supplied him with much local knowledge, yet the reduction of the whole to one general view must have drawn largely upon time and judgment.

In the delineation of the metamorphic strata and the igneous rocks the Professor has had the great advantage of Dr. Macculloch's previous map and valuable writings. Macculloch was a careful and conscientious observer, (although not a paleontologist), and was, in fact, to Scotland nearly what William Smith was to England; the former, however, being far the superior man in reach of mind and scientific ability. Although Macculloch's map is now a quarter of a century old, and although Scottish geology is now far better known and studied, yet the present author builds upon the old foundation, and wisely too. It is amongst the fossiliferous strata that the greatest advances have been made, and here the knowledge both of strata and fossils acquired since Macculloch's time is satisfactorily displayed. Thus, we have before us the Lower Silurian rocks (or Cambrian of Sedgwick) in the south, and the Old Red Sandstone, or Devonian, which Hugh Miller has made so famous and so familiar by his book, and by his discovery of its fossil fishes, occupying a very wide tract on the east coast. A glance at the map shows this formation running in three distinct, but nearly parallel, courses across the country. The Professor might have attempted some distinctions in this vast series, but he has chosen, and perhaps prudently at present, to comprise all under one designation. The local divisions which have been established could not be well represented on this map, and therefore one colour stands for the whole.

Although the *lias* and *oolite* occupy but small spaces upon the map, nevertheless these strata are widely spread over Scotland,—but as in some places they crop out in long lines of cliff below the superincumbent trap, of course they cannot be represented superficially. Yet this very trap that thus hides them probably, preserved them from denudation and destruction. Our own country is the favoured land for these rich fossiliferous beds; and a walk over the Cotteswold Hills for the *oolites*, and over some parts of Dorsetshire and Somersetshire for the *lias*, will better repay the collector of fossils than a perambulation over the more impoverished beds of Scotland.

On the whole, the present map must be

accepted as satisfactory, and in truth it has no competitor. We can only hope that portions of it will be, in the course of time, published and sold separately, so that increased local knowledge may thus find its due expression; and visitors to particular districts may obtain geological companions of smaller extent and on a larger scale.

SOCIETIES.

ASTRONOMICAL.—Nov. 12.—Dr. Lee, V.P., in the chair.—C. C. Jackson, Esq., Grand Cairo, and J. Nicholl, Esq., LL.D., Professor of Astronomy in the University of Glasgow, were elected.—'On the Distribution of the Solar Spots in Latitude since the Beginning of the Year 1854, with a Map,' by R. C. Carrington, Esq.—'New Variable Star (R. Scutarii),' by Norman Pogson, Esq.—'On the Value of the neglected Terms in the Ordinary Expression for the "Equation of Equal Altitudes,"' by J. Riddle, Esq.—'Results of the Observations of Small Planets, made with the Transit Circle, and of Donati's Comet, made with the Altazimuth, at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, from July to October 1858,' by the Astronomer Royal.—'Remarks on the Appearance of Comet V., 1858, (Donati's Comet), accompanied by Drawings, as seen at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, chiefly with the Telescope of the Sheepshanks' Equatorial.'—'Physical Phenomena of Comet V., 1858, as observed with the Northumberland Telescope at the Cambridge Observatory,' by Professor Challis.—'The Great Comets of 1811 and 1858.' The following extract of a letter from Admiral Smyth to the editor, in reference to the great comets of 1811 and 1858 will be read with interest. It may be mentioned that the comet of 1811 was observed for several months by the gallant admiral while employed on active service in the Mediterranean.—'In the magnificent comet, I have been closely attending to its fine figure; and am asked on various sides, as I had the advantage of having closely watched both, which I thought the most splendid in appearance, this, or that of 1811? Now, to my memory, which is very distinct, the palm must be given to the latter. As a mere sight-object, the branched tail was of greater interest, the nucleus with its 'head-veil' was more distinct, and its circumpolarity was a fortunate incident for gazers. But recollect that in these remarks, I mean nothing disrespectful to the Donati. On the contrary, with those exceptions, it is one of the most beautiful objects I have ever seen in the heavens. The head is certainly not so fully pronounced as in that of 1811; but greatly its physical interest is increased by segments of light and a dark hollow, giving the aspect a resemblance to the gaslight called the bat's-wing. . . This dark line, or space down the centre of the brilliant phenomenon, not only had the direct tendency to strengthen the luminosity of the jets of light, in the manner observable in the burning of a wax taper, but also, on a fuller scrutiny of this singular characteristic, to recall its striking resemblance to the similar feature seen in water-spouts, and in the pillars raised in sand-storms which I have witnessed in North Africa.'—'Note on Comet V., 1858,' by W. R. Grove, Esq. The following extract from a letter addressed by Mr. Grove to Mr. De La Rue refers to the phenomena observed during the transit of the tail of the comet over *Arcturus* on the evening of the 5th of October. The telescope employed by Mr. Grove was a small instrument of only two inches aperture, and his remarks are offered under an impression that the weather was not generally favourable for observing the comet on the interesting occasion to which they refer.—'When the comet had entered well within the margin of the tail a dark notch was formed cutting out a portion of the tail round the star; and as the star got further in, this became a dark areola surrounding the star, and in diameter equal to about one-tenth of the line of transit. This continued until the star reached the middle; at this part there is a broad dark line which extends from the nucleus to a distance considerably above the point where the star crossed. When *Arcturus* arrived here, this dark space was perfect up to the star, but on the other

side the white light of the tail appeared to come quite up to the star; in short, as the bright part of the tail had been darkened in the vicinity of the star, the dark part was brightened, at least so much of it as was on the side furthest from the nucleus. I saw the notch again on the opposite side previous to emersion, and then lost it by clouds. The effects I have described are, doubtless, optical, and the notch and areola evidently due to the bright light of this star: the effect on the dark central part is not so easy to explain.'—'Thoughts on the Formation of the Tail of a Comet,' by J. J. Waterston, Esq.—'Report of the Commission sent by the Brazilian Government to Paranaqua to observe the Total Eclipse of the Sun of Sept. 7, 1858, Communicated to the Society by order of the Emperor of Brazil.'—'Note on the Figure of the Earth,' by Captain Clarke, R.E.—'On the Development of the Disturbing Function in the Lunar Theory,' by A. Cayley, Esq.—'Note on the Nomenclature of the Minor Planets,' by J. R. Hind, Esq.

ASIATIC.—Dec. 4.—Col. Sykes, M.P., President, in the chair.—Lord Stanley, M.P. and F. Matheson, Esq., were elected.—A letter was read from Prof. Holmboe, of Christiania, mentioning the discovery in Norway of an ornament of gold, bearing a device very much of an Indo-Sassanian character, being that of an helmeted head, apparently that of a king, with the peculiarity of a serpent rising out of one of the shoulders, as if it was intended to represent the tyrant Zohauk, of Persian legends. A still more remarkable circumstance was the presence of an inscription in front of the head, in the oldest form of the Indian alphabet; the letters of the monuments of Priyadasi, at Delhi and Girnar, of the third century before our era. There is no doubt whatever of their identity, although some few of them are peculiar, and the whole does not admit of a satisfactory reading. There are two words that may be rendered with some confidence, "jaya" (victory), and "rana" (war)—making it probable that the inscription records the name of some Persian prince, who ruled over a portion of Western India, on the confines of Ariana, or Khorasan. Prof. Holmboe purposes to publish a memoir on the subject, but is anxious, in the mean time, that the discovery should be made known to Oriental scholars.—Mr. Fowle completed the reading of his translation of the Burmese ethical work, the 'Nidhi Keyan,' from which we extract the following passages:—"Riches are not equal to learning, for wisdom cannot be stolen or lost; it is therefore thy best friend, and benefits while living, and even after death. . . Gather up each fragment of learning, and think it not small or unworthy of notice; for as rivers are formed and wells are filled by drops of water, so may thy wisdom increase. . . The wealth of priests is moral precepts. . . A man of good family upholds its honour, and, however poor, never disgraces it. . . Soft words make friends; bitter words make many enemies. . . One wishes for a friend, when one gets a rose or dainty dish. . . The beauty of women, and the sweetness of the sugar-cane, bring satiety; but of the words of wisdom you can never be filled. . . Be thankful for the feast when you have partaken of it. . . Be grateful to your wife in old age. . . A man who continually asks favours is not liked. . . A person may have youth, beauty, rank and wealth; but without learning he is like a handsome flower that has no fragrance. . . The master beats his people as a potter batters his clay—not to break or destroy it, but to bring it into shape. . . A rose imparted its fragrance to a leaf in which it was folded; so associate thyself with wise men, and their wisdom will cling to thee. . . However great may be the misfortunes of the virtuous man, he will never transgress by breaking the law, or acting improperly. . . A silly person can discover a fault as small as a little seed in others, but he cannot see a fault as big as a cocoa-nut in himself. . . Kings should personally know the amount of their revenue, and of their expenditure; the quantity of food necessary for the subsistence of their subjects; and inform themselves as to the manner in which the duties of the civil and military services are executed. . . Lay not the sin upon the child, but upon the mother; when a pupil takes to

evil, blame the teacher; when the people of a country act improperly, blame the rulers; and when the king does wrong blame the ministers. . . Union is strength; many small fibres united will hold an elephant. . . The cow should be respected and appreciated; it is she who nourishes man, and she should therefore be considered as a mother. . . The property of those who are lazy goes to those who are industrious. The fool says it is fate; the wise man says it is not; industry must never slacken, and you are sure to thrive; and your conscience, besides, will gladden you." Mr. Fowle, on concluding his paper, made some remarks on the general diffusion of education among the Burmese. He stated, that out of a hundred day-labourers, not ten would be found ignorant of reading, writing and arithmetic. This he said was owing to education being given gratuitously at all the monasteries, and to the necessity of every male child being entered as a novice in a monastery before he entered upon secular life; instruction being continued till the novice was twelve or thirteen years of age. Females were less educated than males, as they had to pay for instruction at private schools.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Dec. 2.—J. Bruce, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—Mr. V. H. Labrow exhibited the silver matrix of a seal inscribed with the name of *William de Higham*.—The Rev. A. Deck exhibited a piece of needle-work of the time of Charles the First, the subject—*Herodias* delivering the head of John the Baptist.—The Secretary exhibited a flake of flint with a serrated edge, found at Brighthampton, and a number of flint arrow-heads, in the possession of Mr. Tennant. The latter were made in imitation of primitive flint weapons.—Mr. B. Wilmer exhibited drawings of Gallo-Roman and Frankish remains, recently discovered in Normandy, on which Mr. W. M. Wylie communicated some remarks.—The Secretary read a translation, by Mr. Wylie, 'Of the Abbé Cochet's Notes of Excavations at La Madeleine de Bernay,' by M. Metayer. These explorations on the site of an ancient leper-house have thrown much light on the sepulchral usages of the middle ages. Besides vases of pottery, there were discovered with the dead, keys, knives, scissors, combs, tweezers, bodkins, &c., and also a number of coins of various periods.

CHEMICAL.—Dec. 2.—Dr. Longstaff, V.P., in the chair.—Mr. J. Barratt read a paper 'On the Analysis of the Water of Holywell, North Wales.'—Mr. J. Mercer read a paper 'On the Relations of the Atomic Weights of the Elements,' and showed how the atomic weights of elements belonging to the same natural group, might be rendered comparable with those of homologous hydro-carbons of the ethyl series. He also pointed out the parallelism in the atomic weights of the chlorine and nitrogen families.—Dr. Hofmann described a new double salt of iodide and nitrate of silver.—Mr. J. Horsley read a paper 'On the Detection of Alum in Bread.'

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Nov. 30.—G. P. Bidder, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—The whole of the evening was occupied by the discussion of Mr. Isaac's paper 'On Steep Inclines in America.'

Dec. 7.—Joseph Locke, Esq., M.P., President, in the chair.—The paper read was, 'A Description of a Breakwater at the Port of Blyth, and of certain Improvements in Breakwaters, applicable to Harbours of Refuge,' by Mr. M. Scott.—The following candidates were elected:—Messrs. G. F. Lyster, R. Manning, J. McVeagh, W. Purdon, and E. B. Webb, as Members; and Messrs. J. Ashbury, J. D. Barry, G. L. Fuller, R. B. Gardiner, W. Hall, G. Hawkins, L. H. Isaacs, J. W. Johns, S. Pontifex, S. A. Varley, and W. Williams, as Associates.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—Dec. 6.—W. Pole, Esq., Treas. and V.P., in the chair.—Right Hon. James A. Stuart Wortley, M.P., W. G. Armstrong, Esq., G. F. Chambers, Esq., Rev. E. Progers, jun., and H. J. Smith, Esq., were elected Members.



## MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon.** Royal Academy, 8.—'On Anatomy,' by Prof. Partridge.  
 — British Architects, 8.  
 — Geographical, 8.—'Notes on the River Amur and the Adjacent Districts, abridged from Papers by MM. Pechurof, Vassilief, Radde, Ussilzof, Pargachevski, &c.'—Explorations in Ecuador, 1856-1857, by Mr. Pritchett.  
**Tues.** Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—Annual General.  
 — Zoological, 8.—Scientific.  
 — Syro-Egyptian, 7½.—'On Certain Discrepancies in the Reading of Hieroglyphs,' by Mr. Marsden.—'On the Date of the Crucifixion,' by Mr. Sharpe.  
**Wed.** Geological, 8.—'On the Old Red Sandstone of Elgin and its Neighbourhood,' by Sir R. I. Murchison.—'On some Reptilian Remains from the Sandstone of Elgin,' by Prof. Huxley.  
 — Society of Arts, 8.—'On the Modifications which the Ships of the Royal Navy have undergone during the Present Century, in respect of Dimensions, Form, Means of Propulsion, and Powers of Attack and Defence,' by Mr. Reed.  
 — Ethnological, 8.  
**THURS.** Linnean, 8.—'On Two Insect-Products from Persia,' by Mr. Hanbury.—'On the Indian Species of Ultricularia,' by Mr. Oliver.—'On the Structure of the Stem in Caryophyllaceæ and Plumbaginaceæ,' by Mr. Oliver.  
 — Philological, 8.  
 — Society of Antiquaries, 8.  
 — Royal, 8.—'On the Fossil Mammals of Australia—Part I. Description of a Mutilated Skull of a large Marsupial Carnivore (*Phylacodon Carnifex*, Ow.) from a Calcareous Conglomerate Stratum, 80 miles south-west of Melbourne, Victoria,' by Prof. Owen.—'On the Nature of the Action of Fired Gunpowder,' by Mr. Thomas.—'A Sixth Memoir on Quantics,' by Mr. Cayley.—'On the Mathematical Theory of Sound,' by the Rev. S. Earnshaw.  
 — Chemical, 8.—'On some Minerals containing Arsenic and Sulphur,' by Mr. Field.—'On the Detection and Distribution of Titanic Acid,' by Mr. Hillebrand.—'The Presence of Ammonia in Ice, and on the Action of Ice-Water on Lead,' by Dr. Medlock.

## FINE ARTS

## THE NEW ART SOCIETY.

LAST week we allowed the proposed "Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts" to address our readers in its own person, and to declare its objects in its own words. We omitted some parts of a long programme, and this in the interests of the Society, being well aware that the patience of a general reader bears only a limited proportion to that of a projector. We gave what appeared to us the leading and practical paragraphs. For this service we seem to have incurred the suspicion of the Society. Societies, we know, are sometimes hard to please. Suppose we had begun to quote at their first line—"Amongst the distinguishing characteristics of the present remarkable age, one of the most striking, and most gratifying, is the taste for the Fine Arts"—do they believe that an indifferent reader would have gone one line further? If one in ten had ventured on to—"the principles of Beauty and Order, constituting the Harmony of Nature, as manifested in Form, Colour, and Musical and Poetic utterance, are becoming generally recognized; and thus, whilst a new source of enjoyment is opened up to Man, a new element of refinement and enlightenment is introduced into his being"—would not this tenth in all probability have thrown the rest into the fire? We will, however, imagine a most adventurous reader—a Mungo Park of Programmes—actually arriving at this region of strange words, very far beyond the Second Cataract, and in a land of unknown tongues—"The Public, as well as the Artist, must acquire the mysteries of the new language in which they are to reciprocate ideas of Beauty and Grace, and,—more essential still, both must learn to recognize the higher purpose and calling of those arts which they cultivate in common." It is for not filling four of our columns with this sort of illumination, that we are called to account by Mr. Ottley. To show him and his associates that we have no desire to injure their scheme in public estimation, we print his remonstrance and explanation.—

21 B, Savile Row, Dec. 7.

"In the *Athenæum* of Saturday last, speaking of the newly-formed 'Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts,' you observe, 'The programme is slightly vague, but we will give the Society the only chance in our power of making their purpose known to our readers,'—and you then extract a passage from the programme relating to the proposed 'lectures, discussions, and classes for study,' leaving off abruptly at the end of it, without making any further statement or comment. On behalf of the Council of the Society, I venture to submit to you, that this publication of the passage in question, taken in connexion with the observations by which you are pleased to accompany it, and one of which I have already cited, is calculated to have a prejudicial effect against their scheme on the minds of your readers, by leading to the impression that the programme of

the Society, besides being 'slightly vague,' is very limited in its scope. I beg to inclose a copy of the programme, from which you will gather that, in addition to the 'lectures, discussions, and classes for study' referred to in the passage you have reprinted, the Society's scheme of operations comprehends many other important objects, amongst which are the following:—Conversations, at which ladies will be admitted; the award of prizes, medals of honour and other testimonials, to the producers of works in painting, sculpture, engraving, architecture, music and poetry; two exhibitions of painting, sculpture, &c., in the course of each year, one of ancient, the other of modern Art, to which on certain days the public will be admitted free; a permanent exhibition of engravings, in connexion with a library of reference on Art-subjects; local committees in the provinces, with whose co-operation meetings and exhibitions, with distribution of prizes, will occasionally take place in their respective localities; distinguished foreign artists and connoisseurs to be invited to become honorary corresponding members of the Society. Trusting to your known courtesy and impartiality for the publication of this communication, I have, &c.

"HENRY OTTLEY, Hon. Corresponding Sec."

This is, so far, intelligible. How far the public may be anxious for instruction in "the mysteries of the new language," or determined to "reciprocate ideas of Beauty and Grace"—in capital letters—is another question.

**FINE-ART GOSSIP.**—S. A. Hart, Esq., R.A., and Professor of Painting to the Royal Academy, is to deliver a lecture to the members of the Liverpool Society of Fine Arts, on the 14th of December, on the study of Art. This is the first time, we fancy, that a Professor of the Royal Academy has ever gone as a teacher into the provinces.

Mr. Armitage's historical allegory of 'Retribution,' which was in the Exhibition of the Royal Academy this year, and is now in the Exhibition of the Liverpool Society of Fine Arts, has been presented by the artist to the Town of Leeds, and is to be placed in the new Town Hall on the close of the Liverpool Exhibition.

Mr. Turner, a Belfast architect, has lately been repairing Stormont Castle, in County Down, very creditably, to judge by the drawings of the design. The building is a castellated chateau with battlemented parapets, bulbous domed turrets, and square central corbelled tower, vane and flagged. The architect has shirked no necessity of comfort, and has introduced a large hospitable portico opening to a hall under the central tower. The windows are square mullioned windows, with a two-storied oriel in the main front. The tower is ascended by a flight of steps formed in an external turret shot up higher than the tower itself, and thus it rises like a flower-stalk from its leaves. Round the basement runs a sort of lace-collared pierced terrace wall, which has a pleasant effect. The roofs are conical, and of the high-pitched extinguisher shape of the old French-Scotch chateaux.

The new Clothmakers' Hall, in Mincing Lane, to judge from the designs, promises to be an ornament to the commercial side of London, thanks to Mr. T. Angell, the architect. The style is Italian, and the entrance from the lane is by a corridor, the walls being formed by stone arcading of semi-circular arches. The roofs are of iron and glass. This corridor leads to an entrance porch, with a spherical roof supported by stone columns, that leads to a grand staircase lighted by an octagonal dome of embossed glass, that such fogs as we now have will stain with a cloudy orange. This staircase leads to the great hall, with panelled ceiling and enriched cornice, supported by polished red granite pillars. The external part is effective, with round arched broad windows, flanked by Grecian pilasters, and foliated as the spandrels above. The ornaments are shells, bosses, and strings of stone flowers. The sky line is a balustraded parapet, and the corner finials are seated gryphons, whose wings harmoniously rise into a peak. Below is a cornice of medallions and cupids emptying sugar-bag cornucopias.

A friend in the country wishes to invite the attention of the Art-public to the distribution of sculpture in the Exhibition of the Liverpool Society of Fine Arts, as worthy of adoption elsewhere. "In consequence," he says, "of the limited hanging space, it has been necessary to erect some screens, at the terminations of which are placed Westmacott's 'Peri,' Calder Marshall's 'Ophelia,' and other statues or busts. Hitherto the impression has prevailed, that paintings and sculpture in such close proximity must be mutually injurious; but this experiment appears to show the fallacy of this impression, and at the same time the general effect of the gallery is very much enhanced. If the Royal Academy, instead of placing sculpture in 'the cellars,' would adopt a similar principle, and distribute the statuary in their several rooms, especially in the Large Octagon, the result, I doubt not, would be as much more satisfactory as the space at their command is so much greater. I see that St. Paul's has been undergoing some extensive repairs; will you allow me to inquire if the upper portion of the screen, between the nave and the choir, is yet restored? If I mistake not, it was removed on occasion of the funeral of the Great Duke, and when I was last in the cathedral it lay 'dormant' at one side. As it bears the epitaph on the great Wren, and is also an essential architectural feature, I trust it is itself again.

"Yours, &c. A COUNTRY ARCHITECT."

Children's books are entering the region of Fine Art. Mr. J. V. Barret, the clever designer of 'Shadows,' a comic fancy, since so worn to death, has just published a small book, entitled 'Shakespeare fresh chiselled on Stone' (Dean & Son). The idea is a plagiarism from *Punch*, Mr. Tenniel having become celebrated for some amusing, but rather strained, parodies in *Punch*, with appropriate quotations ingeniously misapplied. Now of course a comic Shakespeare is fair play for any clown who gets his living by laughing and making others laugh,—but surely Mr. Barret should not in his "Poor Tom's a-cold" repeat almost line for line one of Mr. Tenniel's illustrations. This is carrying parallelism of invention a little too far. With this saving clause, we must allow that Mr. Barret is provokingly funny in his severely indignant cabman, who, objecting to a five-shilling fare for a large family, five trunks, a rocking-horse, and a bird-cage, suggests a capital quotation from 'Julius Caesar'—"Why there was a crown offered him, and being offered him he put it by with the back of his hand, thus—". Of the other illustrations some are very dull and strained, others too obvious. The book, with its small kernel of life and wit, is another proof of the way in which Shakespeare is not only himself witty, but is the cause of wit in others.—'The Headlong Career and Woeful Ending of Precocious Piggy,' by the late Thomas Hood, illustrated by his Son, is an instance of the use of a name, for these few doggerel verses of Hood's are raked up out of the dust-heap of oblivion, and brought out with marvellously dull drawings all about—"Where are you going to, you little pig?—Why, I'm going to have a nice ride in a gig.—In a gig, little pig? what, a pig in a gig? Well, I never yet saw a pig ride in a gig." Of all the drolleries that Æsop has suggested, perhaps this is the feeblest, and it should not have been published by Messrs. Griffith & Farran, even for the smallest of children.—Then come the bird and beast books, which are more rational and educational, for children cannot know too much of their fellow-creatures—since in learning their mere names, habits, and habitats, they learn so much of the general features of the globe. J. B., whoever he is, in his 'Scenes of Animal Life and Character' (Griffith & Farran), shows considerable artist-power in outline drawing, though his touch is sometimes feeble and scratchy, like that of a young seal-engraver or some amateur craftsman. The book, in fact, consists of notes made at Zoological Gardens or Van Amburgh Exhibitions. J. B. has a great eye for animal humour and animal peculiarities, and half the book is full of elephant-actors and tricky apes. The monkey's look of mean fear and chilly piteousness, changing rapidly to chattering mischief, he knows well; and he draws equally well shy horses, shirking dogs, staring, sullen West Highland cattle. An



angry dromedary and a kangaroo in a farm-yard are equally cleverly given, and as for the elongated fierce tiger's head, it would satisfy even Mr. Ruskin. There is a career open to this Scotch artist, whoever he or she may be.—'A Picture Book of Birds and Beasts' (Low & Co.) is a large zoological picture-book of a very different kind,—not priding itself on being true, but giving large water-coloured conventional but tolerably correct drawings of all sorts of wild animals, from the curious umbrella-bird of the River Amazon, with the black plume hanging from its breast, to the white owl of England, with the wings spotted and flowered like bird's-eye maple. The drawings are a thousand times better than children used to have; and many of the examples are rare and curious:—such as the ass of Patna and the South African trumpet-nosed shrew, for young Stephensons.—Mr. C. Tomlinson, the lecturer on Natural Science in King's College, publishes his 'Illustrations of Useful Arts and Manufactures' (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge). Here we have all the stages of various trades—such as hat-making, paper-making, explained by a series of lucid drawings, helped out by sensible letter-press.

### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

**SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—EXETER HALL.**—Conductor, Mr. COSTA.—FRIDAY NEXT, December 17, will be repeated for the LAST TIME Handel's 'MESSIAH.' Vocalists—Miss Louisa Vinning, Miss Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Weiss.—Tickets, 3s., 5s. and 10s. 6d.; for these, or for the few remaining unappropriated seats, application should immediately be made at the Society's Office, 6, Exeter Hall.

**ST. MARTIN'S HALL.**—Mendelssohn's 'LAUDA SION,' Beethoven's Symphony in D, and Dr. J. S. Bennett's 'May Queen,' WEDNESDAY, December 13. Principal Vocal Performers—Miss Banks, Miss Martin (her first appearance), Mdlle. Behrens, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Weiss.—For the Series—Stalls, 30s.; Galleries, 15s.; Single Tickets, 1s., 2s. 6d.; Stalls, 5s. Commence at 7.30.

**MR. HENRY LESLIE'S CHOIR.—ST. MARTIN'S HALL.**—THURSDAY EVENING, December 16, at Half-past Eight.—Stalls, 21s. for the Season. An extra Ticket will be given to Persons now subscribing. Single Stalls, 3s.; Gallery, 2s.; Area, 1s.; at the Hall, Addison & Co., 210, Regent-street, or at Keith, Frowe & Co., 45, Chancery-lane.

**ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—OPÉRA COMIQUE FRANÇAIS.**—This Theatre will OPEN on WEDNESDAY, December 29, with a troupe of eminent artists, among whom Madame Faure (from the Théâtre Lyrique de Paris), Mdlle. Odine Mathieu (from the Grand Théâtre de Bordeaux), M. Fougère, and M. Émon (from the Opéra Comique de Paris), will make their first appearance in England. Full Chorus and complete Orchestra, under the direction of M. Jousset, of the Académie Royale and Opéra Comique de Paris, comprising the principal performers of Her Majesty's Theatre and the Royal Italian Opera. Full particulars will be duly announced. Every information respecting boxes, stalls, &c. can be obtained at Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.—Acting Manager, M. R. Barnett.

**M. JULLIEN'S CONCERTS.—LYCEUM THEATRE.**—LAST FIVE NIGHTS, ending positively on SATURDAY NEXT, December 18.—EVERY EVENING, at Eight.—Engagement of Madame Anna Bishop, who will make her first appearance on Tuesday next, December 14.—M. Wieniawski, the celebrated Violinist, will perform every Evening.

MONDAY, December 13, M. JULLIEN'S ANNUAL BAL MASQUE.

**LYCEUM THEATRE.—M. JULLIEN'S ANNUAL BAL MASQUE.** on MONDAY, December 13.—M. Jullien's present Bal Masqué will be given with unsurpassed splendour.—Tickets for the Hall, 10s. 6d.; Places, and Private Boxes, may be secured of Mr. Chatterton, at the Box-Office, Lyceum.—Open at half-past Nine, and the dancing commence at half-past Ten.

### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

**Handy-Book of Musical Art; with some Practical Hints to Students.** By the Hon. and Rev. T. C. Skeffington, M.A. (Blackwood.)—The Preface assures the public that this book was published to supply "the want which the author himself at one time experienced of some practical guide to the knowledge of 'Musical Art.'" How little the want is supplied may be regretted, considering how small is the number of our books of musical reading. Mr. Skeffington is neither precise, nor picturesque; he now tries to define, now to rhapsodize, but falls to the ground betwixt accuracy and poetry. His feelings are obviously those of a refined amateur who has heard music with his thoughts,—but he is too often confused to the very verge of inexactness in his illustrations.—"Take, for instance," says he, "the *Pastoral Symphony* by Beethoven, and you will recognize as the subject of one movement a rustic song of most rude construction."—Which movement? There is not one subject in the 'Pastoral Symphony' that can be called "rude," save the *trio*, or second theme, in the *scherzo*,—and this is a village dance, ascertainable as such not

merely by tradition, but by the fact of its violent, formal rhythms and totally inexorable phrases, unmatched with words,—in short, no "song."—In speaking of "national music," *apropos* of the History of Musical Art" (p. 13), and "the plaintive sweetness" of 'The Last Rose of Summer,' does Mr. Skeffington forget that the melancholy is merely a composer's trick?—'The Groves of Blarney,' out of which Moore discharged the rhythm to suit his own sentimentalities, hardly merits such a description. Again, about minor keys (p. 33), where our *Handy-book* writer calls attention to the "reckless jollity" of *Caspar's* drinking song in 'Der Freischütz,' in a minor, can he overlook that Weber, whose peculiar felicity lay in ticketing his people on the stage, may have chosen this strident key to express the simulation of jollity, by one already sold to the Demon, and desperately anxious to draw a substitute into the Black Bargain! Further, we totally dissent from our writer's assertion, that some of Mendelssohn's "most brilliant and sparkling fancies" were expressed in the minor key. For this we concede the composer had an avowed predilection,—possibly because he was naturally restrained as a melodist, and in the minor key no melody can sound vulgar. But Mendelssohn's most "brilliant and sparkling" fancies are to be found in the *finale* to his two *Pianoforte Concertos* (G and D major) and to his violin *Concerto* (E major), in his fairy two-part song of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (A major). There is the *scherzo* in G minor in the same work against us we know,—but that rapid movement, though delicate and full of life, has always seemed to us elvish, quaint, but cold as the moonlight on a fairy ring. There is no "sparkle" in a minor key. In Mendelssohn's Scotch Symphony (to pursue the subject) the "brilliant" movement is the *scherzo* in F major,—in his Italian Symphony the final *Saltarello* in A minor is whirling, restless, feverish, brilliant perhaps, acute certainly, not sparkling. We could further comment on Mr. Skeffington's remarks on the German *Chorale* (*sic*, p. 55), on his jumbling up together (p. 64) of three such men as Graun (the French-Prussian, semi-secular, semi-sacred), Colonna (pure Italian of the best vocal period), and Sebastian Bach (in heart, body, soul, and spirit a colossal old German instrumentalist),—but enough may have been said to testify our sympathy with the motives of the writer of this 'Handy-Book,' and our judgment of the inadequacy of his means.

**The May Queen: a Pastoral.** Composed by William Sterndale Bennett, Mus. Prof. Cantab.;—to words by Henry F. Chorley. Op. 39. (Leader & Cook.)—The performance of this Pastoral at the Leeds Festival was mentioned among the events of the autumn. The reasons which then made criticism impossible, apply now to the publication.—Enough, then, to announce the issue of the work. That it may break the spell of reluctance to produce, which has held Dr. Bennett so long, is a wish in which every one will join us.—We may further specify that the Pastoral consists of ten vocal pieces:—for soprano, tenor, bass, and chorus—and an overture; which last was written and performed many years ago in London, with the title 'Marie de Bois.'

**OLYMPIC.**—A new drama, in two acts, was produced on Saturday with well-deserved success. The idea of it is taken from 'Les Crochets du Père Martin,' written by MM. Cormon et Grangé, for the Gymnase; but the treatment has been thoroughly Anglicized by Mr. John Oxenford. The subject is a remarkably felicitous one for the modern stage, and the hero exactly fitted for Mr. Robson. The title expresses at once the domestic nature of the interest,—'The Porter's Knot.' The place of the action is a seaport town on the Kentish coast, where Sampson Burr (such is the name of the hero in the English version) has retired on a snug competency, earned by his honest labour as a porter, and there enjoys the fruit of his savings with his wife (Mrs. Leigh Murray). This interesting couple have an only son, Augustus, (Mr. W. Gordon), whom they have had educated as a surgeon, who, at the opening of the piece, has, to the great joy of his parents, just obtained his

diploma. The document is duly displayed on the wall, by the side of the old porter's knot, in the parlour, and both form the argument of pride and congratulation to the thrifty pair, and also to their niece Alice (Miss Hughes), who is, of course, sincerely attached to clever Augustus. But Augustus has unfortunately contracted a friendship with a fellow-student Stephen Scatter (Mr. George Vining), who has tempted him into extravagances. In the height of their joy, one Mr. Smoothly Smirk (Mr. H. Wigan) enters Burr's house, and shows acceptances from the too-promising youth for two thousand pounds, money lent. The revulsion of feeling experienced by the old man at this intelligence is dreadful; but he retains sufficient presence of mind to dismiss the applicant with the promise of speedy settlement. With a natural feeling, he determines to conceal the circumstance from his wife;—and out of this reticence many touching incidents arise. One Captain Oakham, an old friend, happens to be dining with the family previous to his departure for Australia. To him he confides his delinquent son,—pretending that he himself has lost his money by unsuccessful speculations, which he has kept secret from his better-half; thus sparing at once her feelings and the character of the poor boy. This incident, of course, closes the first act.

It is the misfortune of dramas of this class, that the second act can be so easily anticipated. The redemption of the boy's character, and the restoration of all parties to happiness, is inevitable. The only question is, how the result will be brought about? Besides this, there is in the present instance the impressive picture of old Sampson Burr's patience and fortitude under his heavy misfortune. The old man has taken again to his porter's knot, and bears heavy loads with a cheerful spirit. His labour is somewhat assisted by a truck; and Alice a little helps the weekly finances by the exercise of the accomplishments she had acquired. Just, too, as she had done twenty years ago, the patient, uncomplaining wife brings him his frugal meal,—and in return for her considerate care, Alice and the old man contrive to forge a letter, which they pretend has reached them from Australia, written by Augustus. Meanwhile, the latter has been amidst the perils of the sea, and distinguished himself by his courage,—having saved, indeed, the cargo, for which service the owners have taken him into partnership with them. He is now a prosperous man; and, in due course, returns to repair the consequences of his former ill-doing.

The drama is very skillfully constructed; and the situations tell in consequence with their full force. Mr. Robson, who felt his opportunity in a part like this, was not likely to let it slip, and, accordingly, elaborates it with a minuteness and a finish that make it one of the finest and most complete of his assumptions. With his admirers, it will pass undoubtedly for a great triumph;—and, therefore, the new drama will, it is expected, retain a long possession of the bills. The deepest attention was paid to the progress of the drama, and decided enthusiasm manifested, on the fall of the curtain, by a numerous and fashionable audience.

**STANDARD.**—Madame Celeste has introduced an entirely new piece at this theatre, by the Author of 'The French Spy,' and entitled 'The Little Suttler.' The *Czar Paul* of Russia is a prominent personage, and is embodied, both in his madness and his generosity, by Mr. Johnstone, who plays him not only with a rough vigour, but a discrimination that really interests the attention. To him is opposed a regular stage-character—the palace-cook—who controls the *Czar* by his ready wit and professional conceits, and to whose humour Mr. Bigwood does heaped-up justice. Madame Celeste, as *Natalie*, the Suttler, gains also the good graces of the imperial lunatic by an act of kindness, which he would repay by making her his empress; but she uses her advantage only to gain his pardon for her sister, a peasant-girl, who has personated a countess (Miss Arden) in order to wed Count Wolenski (Mr. Morton). The little drama, which is of the nature of a *petite comédie*, was most carefully and effectively played throughout. It was

well received by the audience; and the character of the *Little Suttler* is likely to find a permanent place in the *répertoire* of the actress.

**MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.**—There have been miscellaneous concerts at the *St. James's Hall* this week;—a meeting of the *Motett Ecclesiastical Society* at *St. Martin's Hall*; and the last *Soirée* but one of the *Réunion des Arts*.—At this we were most favourably impressed by the violoncello playing of Herr Daubert, which—so far as we heard—is good in tone, style, and execution.—The *New Musical Society* is about to commence its proceedings by holding a *Conversazione* on Wednesday next.

The performances of M. Rémusat's French Opera company are announced as about to commence, on the 29th, at the *St. James's Theatre*.—The singers announced are, Madame Faure, Mlle. Céline Mathieu, MM. Fougère and Emon.

We repair an omission by stating that the solitary scholar, for whose education the Mendelssohn Fund collected in England was sufficient to provide, has been transferred from our Royal Academy of Music to the Conservatory at Leipzig: a wise measure, as the respective Academies stand. Some movement is now going on, with the purpose of raising a monument to the last of the German composers, in London as well as in Berlin.

Since 'Belshazzar' has not been performed for many years past in London, and since on its last performance many of the great effects of the oratorio could only be guessed at,—so poor was the execution,—we avail ourselves of its having been put into choral rehearsal by the *Sacred Harmonic Society*, to offer a note or two on some of its choruses. These struck us doubly as coming in immediate contrast with the dry and clever science of Sebastian Bach, to which we had been listening a few hours before. Most frequenters of *Ancient Concerts* know the pompous chorus, "Sing, O ye heavens"; some may recollect, too, the descriptive opening, "Behold, by Persia's hero made,"—in which Handel has seized the situation, marched, like a giant, over the grotesque of the words, and contrived an introduction, grand, dramatic, yet always in clear musical form. But the more didactic chorus, "By slow degrees the wrath of God," is less known, massive, fine—and, grave though it be, never dull.—The brilliant enterprise of the opening of the chorus, "See from his post Euphrates flies," on a florid phrase of great difficulty, is noticeable; but the second movement in six parts falls off.—Even Handel's self could make nothing of such words as,—

Of things on earth, proud man must own  
Falseness is found in man alone,—

of closing the description of so momentous a catastrophe! The hearer must recognize the Pagan joviality of the revel chorus, "Ye tutelary gods,"—in its effective use of unisons recalling "Great Dagon" in 'Samson.'—The scene of the "Writing on the wall" only merits attention as an exception which proves a rule. It has been justly said, that Handel was always equal to the situation: rising the highest when he had to describe such portents as the drying up of the Red Sea, or the fall of Jericho's ramparts. In this case, the terror is weak to excess; nor can the weakness be altogether imputed to the absurdity of the words, since "the Giant" himself professed to admire them mightily.—On such tone and contrast as the songs of 'Belshazzar' display, we may dwell when the Oratorio is performed entire.—A rehearsal is no subject for criticism; but we may express hearty pleasure in the noble sound produced by the voices assembled—some fifteen hundred,—and the readiness with which so large a mass of singers fell into shape.—Nothing of the kind, we dare aver, is to be heard out of England at the time present.

Madame Barbot, the wife of the clever tenor singer, has adventured at the *Grand Opéra* in 'Les Huguenots' with some success. Every lady, it may be added, apparently succeeds, but few stay there;—and those who do are of small use.

Among other scraps of German news we find that 'La Reine Topaze' and 'Fanchonnette' have been produced at Vienna,—that 'Diane de Solange,'

the new opera by H. R. H. the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, is in rehearsal,—and that a new Mass, by that indefatigable composer Herr Ferdinand Hiller, has just been produced at Cologne.

The question of copyright is now under argument in France with an earnestness from which only good can result. It has been mentioned that two members of the Society of Dramatic Authors have protested against the sums handed over by the management of the *Théâtre Lyrique* to the descendants of Weber and Mozart. The Society appears to have adopted the report drawn up by M. Mélesville on the subject, recognizing international property in works of literature and art entire, without restriction, and in all its consequences. The two opposing members, determined not to give in, intend, it is said, to bring the question before a court of law. Meanwhile, *Daniels* and *Gamaeli* are declaring themselves for or against. M. Fétis, in the *Gazette Musicale*, denounces all such protection stoutly, giving an illustration which will amuse the London reader. He asks, how would it fare with the *Handel Society* had it to pay copyright-money to the descendants of Handel? adding that he has a right to ask, since it was owing to his researches in 1829, when repairs were being made in *St. James's Palace*, that the existence of the scores in Her Majesty's Library came to light,—and hence it was that the *Handel Society* was founded!—Turning from this pleasant piece of self-gratulation, there is a good deal to be said on the side of M. Fétis. As was pointed out last week, in respect to performance of music, there may be over-legislation. We fancy such liberality as the French Society has adopted, however magnificent it sounds, however welcome its fruits, in such cases as the offspring of the two great German composers, is impossible "without restriction and in all its consequences."—To state merely one difficulty—besides the opera-music, there is the opera-book! If Weber and Mozart have left relatives,—so also may have Madame von Chezy (if she be not herself alive), Beaumarchais, Guardasoni, Shikaneder, Da Ponte. Have such persons no authors' rights under the code of retrospective remuneration?—Meanwhile, all argument and examination of testimony cannot fail to have a good result sooner or later, in the form (we trust) of liberality without over-legislation.

Rumour asserts that Miss Amy Sedgwick will probably succeed Mr. Charles Kean as the lessee of the Princess's Theatre. In the meanwhile, it is understood that she will appear at the Haymarket shortly after Christmas in a new comedy by Mr. J. Palgrave Simpson.

#### MISCELLANEA

**Railway-Carriage Roof Lamps.**—After the last meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Mr. C. Defries exhibited and explained some specimens of his Improved Railway-Carriage Roof Lamps. Three objects were sought to be accomplished in these lamps. First, by admitting cold air into the burner, thus preventing the oil from boiling, the overflowing of the oil in the glass, so common in other lamps, was prevented. Secondly, a simple method of fixing the glass was adopted, so that by having a stock of glasses at different stations, a broken one might easily be replaced: instead of, as at present, it being necessary to send the damaged lamp to the repairing shops, in order that a new glass might be soldered in. Thus, a much smaller stock of lamps would be required, and less expense would be incurred for repairs; in addition to which the chance of breakage, in the transit from the stores, would be entirely removed. Thirdly, the interior of each lamp was made in one piece, instead of three or four pieces, as customary. This tended to increase the light, which was remarkably clear and brilliant.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—T. W.—B. R. P.—W. D.—N. P.—W. J. M. R.—J. E. J.—P. M.—J. B.—E. R.—H. H.—F. F.—P. W.—C. R.—J. T. D.—O. P. J.—received.

**Erratum.**—In MESSRS. DIDOT'S advertisement, p. 603, the price of the 'Dictionnaire de la Conversation' should have been advertised as 290 francs, instead of 800 francs.

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